# Everyday Digital Humanities

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## Classroom Visualizations

### Mindmup

Allows you to design and download mind maps. I usually assign a particular theme in class and ask that each group present a mind map that ties together themes. Compared to a drawing on the whiteboard, I find that they’re easier to edit for students who want to add layers. They can also be collaborative which makes it faster for students to combine webs. I’ve had sections create their own mind maps and then circulated the different maps from multiple sections for midterm/final study guides.

<https://www.mindmup.com/>

### Time Graphics

Offers a detailed timeline where you can upload photos, documents, audio, and events. The event can span time, or you can give more exact details. You can color code the events listed. You can import/export into multiple formats. All graphics you develop are technically public unless you purchase a premium version.

<https://time.graphics/>

### Timeline JS

Visually less stunning than Time Graphics, Timeline JS is easier to make private and is a fully free app. The timeline is built off of Google Sheets and multiple people can make edits to sheet at once, so it’s much easier to collaborate on. Offers a good presentation form - timeline on the bottom and events with images and text highlighted above. You can connect the timeline to interactive features like Google Maps, Soundcloud, Youtube, or Vimeo.

<https://timeline.knightlab.com/>

## Data Management

### FileMaker Pro

I personally use FileMaker Pro for my data management, but basically all data management tools are expensive and require frequent updates. It is worth investing in if you have data sets that are extensive. I use it most frequently to find connections between phenomenon. For example, I have a data set of pension records that trace family networks, physical addresses, former addresses, occupations, ages, and illnesses. There’s no easy way to trace across these different phenomenon using excel. FileMaker allows you to create advanced sorts, so I can organize by multiple categories at once. It allows me to track the intersection of illness and space in the city. Or occupation, illness, and family networks. I can search and sort for particular types of information and create intake records that will create connections between data points that I can explore in my writing.

They frequently have package sales so if another person in your department needs the software I’d recommend waiting and buying it together - deals are usually 30% off the usual price. Also you can transfer the program computer to computer, which is really helpful. I had the program on an old laptop that died and customer service was super personable and sent me service keys to unlock the software and download it immediately. Data sets can be imported/exported as excel files as well - which I would recommend in order to back up your dataset in multiple formats.

<https://www.filemaker.com/products/filemaker-pro-advanced/>

### Tableau

I haven’t used Tableau myself but I’ve heard that it works well for economic historians or those with heavy statistics and visual graphing needs.

<https://www.tableau.com/>

## Mapping

### Arc GIS

Essential Arc GIS allows you to add layers to maps, visualize data in a spatial manner, and create new maps from collected data. For example, you can overlay population data on a basemap to create a heatmap, offering a visual on settlement patterns. You can also georeference historic maps over modern maps, which allows you to chart similarities/differences in the landscape over time.

See: <https://www.esri.com/en-us/maps-we-love/overview> for examples

GIS is a bit complicated to learn but the possibilities of mapping with GIS far outweigh other tools. GIS has a desktop version and an online version that you can use. Essentially you can save maps that you’ve created using the desktop version to a user profile so that you can download your maps to other computers/upload them to websites.

If you are affiliated with a University I would highly recommend downloading ARC GIS from your software gateway. Some schools demand that you have a proxy service or digital certificate downloaded to use GIS through the university. At UVA we have what’s called a “software gateway” where we can download software that the University pays a subscription fee for all students to access. Your gateway should have detailed explanations for each software, and explanations for how to download.

If your university has a digital humanities center, it should offer ARC GIS classes. At UVA we have the Scholars Lab (<https://scholarslab.lib.virginia.edu/>) that offers classes. UPENN offers classes through the Price Lab (<https://pricelab.sas.upenn.edu/>).

Arc GIS is such a popular tool that there are also a LOT of screencasts online on youtube by users. There are also has a ton of blogs that detail how to get started: <https://www.esri.com/arcgis-blog/products/administration/administration/my-road-to-pro-a-guide-to-getting-up-and-running-with-arcgis-pro-in-a-redlands-minute/>

And ArcGIS has its own tutorials for quick projects: <https://pro.arcgis.com/en/pro-app/get-started/pro-quickstart-tutorials.htm>

### StoryMap JS

Storymap transitions like a powerpoint presentation between places. Essentially it will create an overview of the space through which you’re telling your narrative. Then each slide will essentially focus in on a specific place and part of your story. Storymap will transition between places as your narrative progresses. It allows you to insert images or videos as an overlay on the basic map so that they pop up side by side with your narrative with the map in the background. If you have skills in javascript you can edit the tool to your preferences. Maps are preset or you can use MapBox to design your own map. MapBox offers some free presets, but if you want to do anything advanced with it you will need to pay a subscription fee.

StoryMap works well if you have a narrative that you want to overlay on a very basic map. It does not nearly have all of the capabilities of GIS, but it is quick and easy to learn to use. It’s useful if you’re covering a small geographic area - but projects spanning more than one state or country should use other tools listed below. This is a good introduction for students who are trying to figure out how to tell a narrative using space as an analysis.

<https://storymap.knightlab.com/>

### ESRI Story Maps

Essentially this is a copy of StoryMap for Arc GIS users. If you have the desktop ArcGIS Pro, you can upload your base maps up to ESRI Story Maps to create a digital project. I used this application for my end of the year presentation. This allows you to build a presentation tool that combines the specialty maps you’ve created in Arc GIS with a narrative. The application allows you to upload photographs, videos, and to transition in your text between geographic points on the map. Essentially as the reader scrolls through the text, you can cue images to pop up or the map to transition as they read along.

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/en/>

### Neatline

Neatline pairs with Omeka collections for an open source mapping narrative tool. If you don’t have connections to GIS, this is a great free alternative. It works well for presenting material objects on a visual overlay. The background might be a map, but it could also be a high resolution image like a document or painting. It works well to connect with personal websites.

<https://neatline.org/>

### QGIS

QGIS is a open source free GIS system. It’s basically a free version of GIS that is simplified. It has both desktop and browser versions, and if you have any training in Python you can add a script to run extra features. It’s a great tool if you feel confident in your dh skills, but it’s a little harder to learn compared to GIS because it’s fully run by volunteers. If you understand the data behind GIS, it’s a great free alternative, but there’s a bit higher of a learning cap because there are fewer users and less documentation than there is for GIS.

<https://qgis.org/en/site/>

## Online Collections

### Omeka

Omeka is an open source platform to share media files. You can store items like photos, videos, or scans in an interactive online exhibit. This allows you to create a digital exhibit, much like a library exhibit, for a collection of items. You can tag items, map them, and publish them in a story format. There are themes that can help you determine the best way to share a particular kind of item. There are particular themes designed for a variety of specialties. Omeka easily connects to Neatline projects.

<https://omeka.org/>

User Manual: <https://omeka.org/classic/docs/>

### Flikr

Flikr offers high resolution image storage, as well as video storage. Most of the mapping tools above ask that you import images saved to a Flikr account. I generally download my high resolution maps from the Library of Congress to my Flikr account. Then I use mapping tools to download them directly from Flikr. The mapping tool will import the image from Flikr as a tiled image. Tiled images refocus the resolution when you zoom into the image, which will ensure that the image is not blurry if you overlay a photo or zoom into a particular point on the map.

<http://flikr.com/>

## Visualization

### Gephi

Good for social network analysis and visualization. I haven’t used it before, but colleagues have recommended it for social network cartography.

<https://gephi.org/>

## Research

### Social Network and Archival Context

Awesome website to use if you’re searching for biographical information. SNAC works with individual archives to report all personal papers, reference material, and published materials for historical actors. It offers basic biographies, social network information, lists places associated with the actor, and each source attributed to the author. Resources list a range of primary sources, including places where the historical actor is referenced.

<https://snaccooperative.org/>

## UVA

### UVA Scholars Lab

Offers fellowships for DH projects and summer training for particular tools.

<https://scholarslab.lib.virginia.edu/>

### Shanti Interactive

Shanti Interactive lists multiple tools developed by UVA for visualization projects. This includes VisualEyes5, a free tool that works on HTML coding to create digital mapping projects. VisEyes5 combines maps, timelines, and narratives to create a complex visualization tool. It’s a decent alternative to GIS, but I think its coding is the clunkiest of all of the above tools. If you choose to use VisEyes there are some issues in that it is grant funded and there are no updates being made to the system so eventually it will fade out. Shanti also includes MapScholar, a tool for presenting many maps alongside a narrative page. Shanti also supports tools to help personalize websites and pedagogical tools. I think these tools are pretty outdated but they’re free to use.

<http://www.viseyes.org/>

## UPENN

### Digital Humanities Tools

PENN has a whole page and finding aid dedicated to dh tools. It also has references to textual analysis tools, which I’ve never needed, but people beyond the 1800s might find useful. A lot of scholars use text mining to figure out trends or changes in langauge over time. The tools listed under the Text Analysis tab have different methodologies, but in essence they mine thousands of scanned books to allow you to search for major terms, compare works side by side, classify/tag documents, or transcribe materials.

<https://guides.library.upenn.edu/c.php?g=476112&p=4003039#s-lg-box-12463854>

## Online Tutorials

<https://programminghistorian.org/en/>