

Jasmine Alinder

History 715: Research Methods in Local History

Assignment: “March on Milwaukee Digital Curation Project”

Digital Humanities tool/method: StoryMapJS/Gigapixel, *March on Milwaukee* digital collection, digital archives, visual storytelling

Description:

In this digital curation project students used Storymap JS to build a short digital exhibition that centers on one document from the *March On Milwaukee Civil Rights History Project*. That one document could be an object, photograph, letter, typed text, or a transcript of an oral history. The only requirement is that it must be represented in a single frame. So, for example, if students wanted to center their exhibit on a multi-page document or letter, they would need to pick one page and then build the exhibit around that one page. As in the Seurat example on the StoryMapJS/Gigapixel site, from a single document students select anchor points that users will zoom to as they move through the exhibit. After zooming to the detail on the left of the screen, on the right of the screen students include additional contextualizing information, text, documents and objects.

Learning outcomes:

The goal is for students to explicate different levels of meaning in that one document, doing a close reading of a single page while using comparative sources to connect that one page to a larger historical web.

This project is scaffolded so that students will build it as they move through the semester, with plenty of opportunities for assistance and feedback.

Sample assignments:

- Jordan Davis, “Freedom Now: Black Comedy, the Politics of Black Parenthood, and Public School Boycotts”:
<https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/1d460576fd2091929bccab08242dd0ba/the-politics-of-black-parenthood-and-public-school-boycotts-in-milwaukee-1964-1966/index.html>
- Patrick Hall, “March 1966: A Letter From Milwaukee’s NAACP Youth Council to Alderwoman Vel Phillips”:
<https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/00d662f800a0a606b477891077b7bc34/his-715-course-project/index.html>
- Steve Moray, “Image of Contradiction: Milwaukee’s Open Housing Movement”:
<https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/e7256a0158b63aaa468fd239bdaef872/hist-715/index.html>