#DLFteach Volume 3: Lesson Plans for Literacy and Competency Driven Digital Scholarship Instruction
Creating Digital Stories with TimelineJS
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TimelineJS Part One: Effective and Sustainable Digital Stories

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Overview

Telling an effective digital story

Accessibility

Sustainability

Workflow for TimelineJS (set up for next time)
TimelineJS Example

Mapping a World of Cities

- Click through (and just skim) a few slides of the timeline to get a feel for how it works. What is done well to aid your understanding of the topic? What makes it more difficult?
- How does the timeline incorporate non-dominant perspectives? Is it effective? How might you do that in your project?
- There are a few cities that appear in the timeline multiple times. Choose a popular city, and describe how you went about finding a throughline / narrative for that city.
Effective digital storytelling

- How is digital storytelling different?
- Who is the audience?
  - What is the best way to engage that audience? What “question” can you ask to get and keep them interested?
- How can we incorporate non-dominant voices or a social justice perspective?
Sketching out a digital timeline project

Click the link in the chat for TimelineJS Storyboard Worksheet -- it will ask you to make a copy, which will save to your Google Drive.

If you brought a few pieces of content to play with, use those. If not, pick a throwaway topic (like the history of Halloween 🎃), and use the sources from last time to find 1-2 pieces of content.

Start sketching out your timeline on the storyboard worksheet. Remember the special considerations for digital storytelling, and think about how you’ll tie your pieces together into one narrative.
Accessibility and Sustainability

What is accessibility?

What is sustainability?
Best practices for accessibility

- **WCAG principles** - Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
- **Alt-text** - Machine readable text and screen readers
- **Hyperlinks** - always embed! Clickable and descriptive and cannot exist more than once on any given page.
- **Headings** - don’t use for visual reasons. The structure they make up is important for screen readers to understand.
- **Video and audio** - transcripts / captions
- **For sustainability** - if we make screenshots or try to preserve the display, how will they be machine accessible? For screen readers and for museum staff to easily find things
- **WAVE Web Accessibility Evaluation Tool**
Sustainability

- Especially important for digital projects
- “Minimal computing” for digital humanities

Socio-Technical Sustainability Roadmap (STSR)
- What is your project about and who is it for?
- How long do you want to work on it and how long do you want it to last?
- What kinds of issues in ethics, privacy, security, or sustainability could come up?

Derived from The Socio-Technical Sustainability Roadmap
Preserving our timelines

Questions to ask

- What can you put in a portfolio / CV?
- Where does it live? (What’s the footprint?)
- How will you hand it off to the school / community organization / whoever else needs to be able to maintain it?

Questions from STSR

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TimelineJS Workflow (may be iterative!)

Using your storyboard or content plan as a reference,
- Put content into spreadsheet
- Generate timeline from spreadsheet
  - Set basic customization options like font and where the timeline starts
- Share timeline with URL or embed code

We will do this together and cover in detail next time.
What questions do you have?

Instructor email

Next session: in depth on TimelineJS

In the meantime, keep / start gathering content in your storyboard worksheet to populate your Google Sheet next time.