Digital Timeline Project Description with TimelineJS
Created August 2020 by Kayla Abner

For this project, you will create a learning-focused digital exhibition using TimelineJS, an open-source web platform for creating digital timelines with embedded media. Working in conjunction with the Digital Scholarship and Publishing team, each group will develop a timeline project [focused on x topic]. The DSP team will also teach you to find media, construct a solid digital story, and share and preserve your timeline.

The format of this assignment requires you to center the temporal aspects of a topic in your presentation. Using a web-based digital publishing platform is different from an essay or other projects you may have done, so you'll learn to think critically about the format, the media you use, and the data you'll create on the backend to make your project. The general format of a timeline slide includes a piece of media (audio, video, or an image), text (which could be an item label or a page of the story, depending on the situation), and a date/time. The materials in the slide are fed into the tool through a Google Sheet (so you'll create this data sheet first to feed into the tool).

Things to think about when you're putting your timeline together:
- How does a temporal perspective support understanding of this topic?
- What media do you want to use (both in terms of the type and the subject)? What will be best for understanding the content and supporting your narrative?
  - How will you get that media?
- How do you want to organize your narrative?
  - Timelines made in TimelineJS default to chronological order – how does that affect your narrative?

Your timeline must include the following (see the rubric for more information).
- At least 15-20 points of time (slides in your timeline)
- Most slides should include a piece of media (image, audio, or video)
- At least one of each type of media in the whole timeline
- [If applicable: specific materials related to the course, for example, materials from community partners]

The key to this project is to be intentional about the media and text you choose to include and doing so in a way that engages your primary audience, which will vary by
Creating Digital Stories with TimelineJS

Kayla Abner, Paige Morgan, Amanda McCollom, and Lois Stoehr group. Successfully engaging your audience depends on your ability to tell a solid digital narrative.

Please note: the timeline you create will be publicly accessible to anyone with your Google Sheet link. While identifying information is not visible on the finished timeline, you’re welcome to create a throwaway Google account so it’s not tied to your personal or UDel account.

A few examples to see the TimelineJS format:

- The American Civil War (developed by a group of students at UD)
- A History of the University of Delaware Honors College (developed by a Digital Scholarship Librarian at UD)
- Mapping a World of Cities (developed by a large and experienced working group of developers, librarians, and scholars)