

Steps towards completion of the project

Defining the Topic

I'm a big sports fan, in general. I wanted to pick a section of books that could easily be extended if I wanted to expand this project later on for KLIC. After several days of considering different project ideas, I went out to peruse the GV call number section, and the whole concept of mapping sports-related books clicked that light bulb on in my mind. A powerful emotional connection was that one of the books I selected was about my high school. This connection drove my desire to complete this project. Despite finding a topic I was enthusiastic about, there were several moments along the way in this journey that about had me go seek other project ideas.

First Steps

After selecting the 18 books, I gathered information from the KLIC OPAC including book title, book author(s), subjects, call number, permanent link to the catalog. I then went to Open Library and copied the URL links for the book cover images. Thank you [Open Library](#) for your API linked images.

Where to Map the Book

I established a rubric to select the mapping location for each of the books. The overall geographic limitation was that all of the book locations must be within the United States.

If the book was about a person, where that person is most commonly associated was chosen. If there were multiple well-known locations for an individual, then the location was assigned by what I thought was most commonly associated.

If the book was about a subject in one place, like the high school book, then that set the location for mapping.

Once the locations were assigned, I gathered longitude and latitude coordinates for each book title.

Downloading the Shortlist App--First Time

The Shortlist App from ArcGIS is a zipped file. I downloaded the app to my computer and started reading the readme file. The extracted files included several folders and an index file that would need re-configuration. The folders and index file would need a website for implementation.

After reading the readme file a few times, I finally understood the first step: input all of my collected data into a detailed Excel file. I just had to figure out what would be in my details and what would be in my short pop-up. I chose book title, latitude and longitude (the map coding), authors, subjects, website (permalink to catalog record for each book) and image URL (Open Library).

After finishing the Excel file, it would not convert to a CSV file, which was so necessary for the map layer in ArcGIS. I almost decided to go another direction. Finally, it dawned on me, after a few days of frustration, that each of the permalink URLs for the catalog records were extremely long. After using tiny.cc to shorten each catalog record link, the file could be saved as CSV.

Finding a Website

In the readme file, it said the Shortlist App files had to be extracted into a website. Also in the file, using a cloud service like Dropbox was discouraged.

I struggled trying to get the extracted files in various free website file managers. After failing a few times, I came to the conclusion that perhaps the free websites that I was trying to use could not handle uploading so many folders and the application file. After sending a few emails to various free website vendors, I discovered that was an accurate conclusion.

At this point, not only was a lot of time already invested into this project, but the assignment deadline was only 6 days away. What I needed was a web hosting service. I already managed two websites for nonprofits at Hostgator. This time, I signed up and paid for my own domain name and web hosting plan. Immediately, I uploaded the zip folder, extracted it and created the shortlist folder. This shortlist subfolder is where the mapping concepts are applied with the book details.

Creating the Map Layers in ArcGIS Online

I created the shortlist layer in ArcGIS online by uploading the CSV file. Then I created a MapNote stickpin for the KLIC location. I added layers from the web to give some topographical layers. I chose the map extent for the layers. This was the simplest stage of the process.

Connecting the Website and ArcGIS Map Layers and ArcGIS Web Mapping Application

The real test came at this point: configuring the shortlist app. I copied the web map ID from ArcGIS and inserted it into the shortlist application file through HostGator's editing function. I made the stickpin layer a non-clickable layer. After saving and closing, I tried it out. It worked.

I then went back to ArcGIS online and added the Web Mapping Application using a URL. I made sure to tag shortlist, KLIC, Chattanooga, Chattanooga State so that other people on ArcGIS online could find the URL link.

Creating the Website

I couldn't have a working sub-folder in the Shortlist App without a website to present this project and document the work to get here. I am so appreciative that Hostgator provides easy, web-building tools. For me, with the deadline looming not too far away, the easy option was the only option.

Credits

Thank you to Dr. Eva Dodsworth for presenting this idea in class and for forwarding the email from another librarian who completed a similar mapping project.

Thank you to Open Library for their public API linked images of book covers. This project would not have the appropriate visuals without their open source coding.

Thank you to the Dean of Kolwyck Library and Information Commons, Susan Jennings, for encouraging me to go back to graduate school.

Thank you to my family for putting up with me on so many frustrated nights.