Digital Durham 2.0

Mapping the Archives

Trudi Abel, History
Victoria Szabo, AAH&VS and ISIS
ISIS Tech and New Media Tuesday
26 April 2011
Digital Humanities/Spatial History

• Place and space, over time, as organizing principles
• Database orientation: substrate of “content” presented through various modalities
• Dialog between quantitative and qualitative methods
• Multiple approaches to narrative and argument - archive, analysis, reflection
• Theory and practice intertwined
• Incorporation of various media forms
Digital Durham 1.0

• Build upon an existing archive of Durham historical materials collected over 10+ years (project began in 1999) by Trudi Abel w/ support of many
• Democratization of research
• Power and poverty of written records
• Undergraduate research- like mini-graduate research experience
  • primary source materials; “detectives”
  • in dialog with secondary source debates; historiography
  • original questions and areas to develop
  • authentic discovery
• Become a critically-aware reader of history b/c they understand the art form

http://digitaldurham.duke.edu
Digital Durham 2.0

- ISIS 156S: Crossed with ISIS, Education, and Visual Studies
- Combines the historical archive approach with the mapping and community orientation
- Expand access to existing content through map-based “explosions” of database content
- The presence of the past as shown through the convergence of maps, virtual worlds, and annotated space
- Trails and associations by curator/users throughout the archives
- Potential for participatory, scholarly and popular expansion
WALLTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY PROJECT

1930 Census Data Map

Instructions:
Zoom in and out using the Google Earth tools on the map.
Click on an icon to see who lived at that address according to the 1930 Census.
Information shown here includes names, age, sex, occupation, and race.
The map overlay is an 1890 map from Digital Durham. Map of the town of Durham, North Carolina: showing the property of the Durham Consolidated Land and Improvement Company by M.P. Jackson

Composite Census Page Images:
Page 29B (click to view) PDF (300 dpi)
Page 30A (click to view) PDF (300 dpi)
Course Readings

- James Leloudis, *Schooling the New South*
- Thomas Hanchett, *Sorting Out the New South*
- Pauli Murray, *Proud Shoes*
- Anne Kelly Knowles, *Placing History and Historical GIS*
- Mark Monmonier, *How to Lie with Maps* and *No Dig, No Fly, No Go*
- Primary Resources: Digital Durham archives, Special Collections materials, Durham public and library records...
  - maps, photos, ledgers, letters, pamphlets, field trips...
- Weekly blog reading responses, reflections, map experiments

Wednesday, April 27, 2011
Course Goals

• Learn about Durham’s history
• Build new data sets for Digital Durham use
• Historicize and contextualize archival and digital information through a deep dive into primary source research and digital content-creation
• Develop digital media/technology fluency among students
  • Awareness of what ISN’T online, and the editorial choices that come w/ digitization
  • Non-linear and linear authorship approaches to new knowledge-production
• Produce humanities projects relevant to the larger world: scholarship in the service of society- public history
Student Final Projects

- Work with primary materials in Special Collections, Public Records, Public Libraries and beyond to explore some aspect of Durham history (THANK YOU EVERYONE!)
- Digital capture and edit of selected materials
- Research, cross-reference, and verify existing and new Digital Durham content
- Develop rich media maps combined w/ reflective final papers
- Explore the presence of the past in Durham today
Through studying the history of Durham schools between 1882 when the first graded school was built and 1929 when the Depression hit and school growth was put on hold, we can analyze the origin of issues still present in schools today, and possibly find a remedy.
The History of Durham Schools, 1882-1929: Learning from the Past
by Heather Wiese

Through studying the history of Durham schools between 1882 when the first graded school was built and 1929 when the Depression hit and school growth was put on hold, we can analyze the origin of issues still present in schools today, and possibly find a remedy.
Amanda Truelove

The goal of this project is to research and further analyze the history of education in Durham, NC in the 1950s. Prior to the 1950s, the city of Durham operated under a segregated schooling system, as mandated and upheld by the law, whereby White and Black students attended separate schools.

It was not until the mid 1950s that progress started to be made with regards to the desegregation of schools in Durham. Through this project I will analyze the various events that helped to promote the desegregation of Durham schools.
Durham Schools Desegregation
by Amanda Truelove

Digital Durham 2.0

Zoom in on the map using the Google Earth tools on the map itself. Click on the placemarks to learn more about the schools. The image underneath is the Security Map from 1937.

The goal of this project is to research and further analyze the history of education in Durham, NC in the 1950s. Prior to the 1950s, the city of Durham operated under a segregated schooling system, as mandated and upheld by the law, whereby White and Black students attended separate schools. It was not until the mid 1950s that desegregation of the schools began in Durham.
Like most public libraries in the South during the early twentieth century, the Durham County Library refused to serve the African American community. Together, the history of the development of both the County Library serving the white community and the Colored Library established by a grassroots movement in the city's black community capture the racial inequities and social undercurrents of the era.
The "Happy Relation" Between Black and White Communities in Durham: The Establishment and Development of Public Library Systems, 1890-1930
by Hillary Martinez

Digital Durham 2.0

Zoom in on the map using the Google Earth tools on the map itself. Click on the placemarks to learn more about the libraries. Note that this map is best viewed in Google Earth or with multiple layers visible on the web. (Multilayer View Coming Soon!)

Like most public libraries in the South during the early twentieth century, the Durham County Library refused to serve the African American community. Together, the history of the development of both the County Library serving the white community and the Colored Library established by a grassroots movement in the city's black community capture the racial inequities and social undercurrents of the era.
The Methodist Church has played a defining role in the foundation of Durham and the development of diverse neighborhoods. By playing a major role in the community and educating masses of children in Sunday schools, the church has shaped generations of citizens. While there were significant differences between the Methodist Sunday schools in East Durham, Hayti, and West Durham due to racial and socioeconomic divisions, the schools in every neighborhood were used to support children, families, and the entire community after the despair and destruction caused by the Civil War.
Zoom in on the map using the Google Earth tools on the map itself. Click on the placemarks to learn more about the schools. The image underneath is the Security Map from 1937.

The Methodist Church has played a defining role in the foundation of Durham and the development of diverse neighborhoods. By playing a major role in the community and educating masses of children in Sunday schools, the church has shaped generations of citizens. While there were significant differences between the Methodist Sunday schools in East Durham, Hayti, and West Durham due to racial and socioeconomic divisions, the schools in every neighborhood were used to support children, families, and the entire community after the despair and destruction caused by the Civil War.
Jenny Denton

Relating the local economy, as seen through the M.A. Angier general store ledger from 1895, to the way Durham operated as a community at the turn of the century.
Durham's Angier General Store in 1895
by Jenny Denton

Digital Durham 2.0

Zoom in on the map using the Google Earth tools on the map itself. Click on the placemarks to learn more about the store and its customers.

Relating the local economy, as seen through the M.A. Angier general store ledger from 1895, to the way Durham operated as a community at the turn of the century.
My project is a mapping of all of Durham's black businesses in 1922 based on the Negro Directory and the 1922 Durham City Directory. I'm analyzing the centers of the black community and looking for patterns based on the location of the businesses and what kinds of businesses there are.
Black Businesses in Durham in 1922
by Mea Warren

Digital Durham 2.0

My project is a mapping of all of Durham's black businesses in 1922 based on the Negro Directory and the 1922 Durham City Directory. I'm analyzing the centers of the black community and looking for patterns based on the location of the businesses and what kinds of businesses there are.
I have been researching a 1922 pamphlet [*Milestones Along the Color Line*] of Durham properties that are owned and run solely by African Americans. I plan to use this project to understand the progress of the race as it relates to class.
I have been researching a 1922 pamphlet [Milestones Along the Color Line] of Durham properties that are owned and run solely by African Americans. I plan to use this project to understand the progress of the race as it relates to class.
Special Thanks

- Duke Special Collections
- Lynn Richardson, Durham Public Library
- Mitch Fraas, Duke History
Demo

http://www.duke.edu/web/digitaldurham/
Questions/Comments

- Trudi Abel, tabel@duke.edu

- Victoria Szabo, ves4@duke.edu

- http://digitaldurham.duke.edu [current archive]

- http://www.duke.edu/web/digitaldurham/ [works in progress on DD 2.0 site]