Introduction to Digital Humanities
<Insert the semester and year>
<Insert your name>

Digital Project Evaluation

>Title of the Project>
<URL of the Project>

Project Background and Goals

Institutions

What universities, organizations, and/or companies are behind the project? You should not list all institutions that have contributed materials to the project; just list the ones that are the primary affiliations of the project. If there is only one, that’s fine. If there are none, say so.

Granting bodies

Was funding provided for the project that is acknowledged on the site (e.g. Mellon Foundation or National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH))? If so, list all funding bodies. If not, say ‘none’.

Individual people and credit

Are individuals listed on the project? If so, list their names out here. Does it seem that everyone who contributed on the project is listed? Or is only one person listed (or none)? Spend a sentence or two explaining how well you think that credit has been given.

Timeframe

When was the project begun? Does it have an end date? If you had to dig to find this information, note where you found it (e.g. last Twitter posting). If there are no dates or no end date, say so. (Note: this question is not about the dates of the topic of the project)
Who are the intended users?

Who was this project created for? How sophisticated and/or jargon-y is the language? Is there enough context for users outside of the discipline to understand? Be more specific than “the general public.” If a broad audience seems to be intended, imagine at least two specific types of the general public that would find this project of interest (e.g. baseball fans, local history buffs).

What are the project’s goals?

What is the research question behind the project? Why did the project team start the project? Why is this project important to them? What do they hope to achieve?

Presentation

How the project presents information to the user.

Type

What presentation format is chosen (e.g. map, timeline, multimedia essay, digital archive)? (Note: a ‘website’ is not a precise enough answer.) Why was this presentation format chosen? Does it work well? Why (or why not) and how?

Narrative context

Is the user given historical/cultural context to the content of the project? Does the project give background on the time period and/or geographic location? Would a user unfamiliar with the context be able to understand this project using only materials on its website?

Accessibility

Is the user given information about how to use the site (if applicable)? Is the content of the project accessible to all users? (Note: it being on the internet is not an accessibility move for the context of this evaluation - all of these projects are on the internet.) Does its website use colorblind-friendly color schemes? Do the images have alt-text? (Look for web accessibility using MSU’s Basic Checklist: Online Content Accessibility.)

Material and data

What information and sources the project is built upon.
Type(s)

What material types are used in the project? (e.g. newspapers, police reports, geographic maps, diaries, Census records, etc) List all data types.

Origin(s)

Where does the material come from? What institutions currently hold that material? (e.g. British Library, New York Historical Society, data.gov, DPLA, etc) List all origin locations.

Advantages

What questions and types of analysis do these materials allow? What advantages do you see in the materials used?

Limitations

What questions and types of analysis do these materials not allow? Describe any limitations in the method of data collection or material selection. Are there important perspectives missing? If the project talks about gaps in the data or missing materials, discuss that here.