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## Digital USD

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Digital Initiatives Symposium

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Apr 28th, 1:05 PM - 1:50 PM

### Mapping Renewal: How An Unexpected Interdisciplinary Collaboration Transformed a Digital Humanities Project

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## Mapping Renewal: How An Unexpected Interdisciplinary Collaboration Transformed a Digital Humanities Project

### Presenter 1 Title

Director of Digital Projects and Initiatives

### Presenter 2 Title

Programmer/Analyst

### Session Type

45-minute concurrent session

### Abstract

Funded by a National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Foundations Grant, the UA Little Rock Center for Arkansas History and Culture's "Mapping Renewal" pilot project focused on creating access to and providing spatial context to archival materials related to racial segregation and urban renewal in the city of Little Rock, Arkansas, from 1954-1989. An unplanned interdisciplinary collaboration with the UA Little Rock Arkansas Economic Development Institute (AEDI) has proven to be an invaluable partnership. One team member from each department will demonstrate the Mapping Renewal website and discuss how the collaborative process has changed and shaped the project.

### Location

KIPJ Room D

### Keywords

Mapping Renewal, GIS, urban renewal, Little Rock Arkansas, Interdisciplinary, Archives, Digital Humanities, History, Collaboration

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Digital Initiatives Symposium 2020  
Concurrent Session Proposal  
11/12/2019

**Session Title:** Mapping Renewal: How An Unexpected Interdisciplinary Collaboration Transformed a Digital Humanities Project  
**Session Type:** Concurrent

### **Author Bios**

Geoffrey Joseph is currently a programmer/analyst with the Arkansas Economic Development Institute (AEDI). He holds a BA in Mathematics and an MS in Information Systems. Geoffrey has over 20 years of experience in PC and web development and has developed applications for companies such as Honda of America, Ryder Transportation, and Siemens AG among others. He currently resides in Little Rock, AR.

Elise Tanner is the Director of Digital Projects and Initiatives at the UA Little Rock Center for Arkansas History and Culture (CAHC). She holds a BA in Photography and an MS in Library and Information Science and was a resident in the 2017-2018 National Digital Stewardship Residency for Art Information. Some of her responsibilities at the CAHC including running the Digital Services Lab and oversing all digitization and digital preservation activities, creating online exhibits, and managing the Center's various information systems.

### **Abstract**

Funded by a National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Foundations Grant, the UA Little Rock Center for Arkansas History and Culture's "Mapping Renewal" pilot project focused on creating access to and providing spatial context to archival materials related to racial segregation and urban renewal in the city of Little Rock, Arkansas, from 1954-1989. An unplanned interdisciplinary collaboration with the UA Little Rock Arkansas Economic Development Institute (AEDI) has proven to be an invaluable partnership. One team member from each department will demonstrate the Mapping Renewal website and discuss how the collaborative process has changed and shaped the project.

### **Proposal**

For the Seventh Annual Digital Initiatives Symposium, we are proposing a presentation about the UA Little Rock Center for Arkansas History and Culture's (CAHC) on-going project entitled, "Mapping Renewal."

Funded by a National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) Humanities Collections and Reference Resources Foundations Grant, the Mapping Renewal pilot project focused on creating access to and providing spatial context to archival materials related to racial segregation and urban renewal in the city of Little Rock, Arkansas, from 1954-1989. Thousands of archival materials were digitized for this project, including historical maps, photographs, reports, and architectural

drawings. These materials were then georeferenced to place them on a modern-day map. The website will be publicly available in January 2020.

The Center initially worked with a GIS analyst from the UA Little Rock Arkansas Economic Development Institute (AEDI) to do the georeferencing of the site. It became clear that the project needed further expertise to develop the website so additional members from the AEDI joined the project to build the site and database from scratch. This unplanned interdisciplinary collaboration has proven to be an invaluable partnership. At the Symposium, one team member from each department will demonstrate the Mapping Renewal website and discuss how the collaborative process has changed and shaped the project thus far.

The Center plans to pursue the NEH's Implementation Grant that will enhance and expand the website through a continued partnership between the CAHC and AEDI.

### **Three Learning Outcomes**

1. To examine how technology and the digital aspects of a project can define and/or influence a digital humanities project.
2. To demonstrate how interdisciplinary collaboration can produce a more successful digital humanities project.
3. To explore the challenges of interdisciplinary work and solutions that were used in the Mapping Renewal project.

### **Keywords**

- Mapping Renewal
- GIS
- Urban renewal
- Little Rock, Arkansas
- Interdisciplinary
- Archives
- Digital Humanities
- History
- Collaboration

Thank you for your consideration.

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