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Crowdsourcing Metadata: the Revolutionary Cataloging Interface and How it Can Help YOUR Library Expose and Promote Hidden Collections

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Crowdsourcing Metadata: the Revolutionary Cataloging Interface and How it Can Help YOUR Library Expose and Promote Hidden Collections

Presenter 1 Title

Cataloging and Metadata Librarian

Session Type

Event

Abstract

The crowdsourcing of metadata to expose and promote hidden collections is a significant and growing development in libraries, archives and museums, and offers hitherto unparalleled mass-collaborative potential for digital humanities projects. Originating from the field of citizen science, the online Zooniverse platform has been successfully utilized for this purpose by institutions including the Imperial War Museum, the Folger and the Huntington. This session presents recently published original research¹ in order to analyze and explain the automated quality control features of this major metadata crowdsourcing digital platform. The results, it is argued, are truly revolutionary. We conclude with a brief description of the 'Project Builder' feature which enables other institutions – and perhaps even yours – to create new experimental projects aimed at exposing hidden collections via the online crowdsourcing of robust, reliable and accurate metadata.

¹ Barber, S.T. (2018). The Zooniverse is expanding: crowdsourced solutions to the hidden collections problem and the rise of the revolutionary cataloging interface, *Journal of Library Metadata*, 18:2, 85-111. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/19386389.2018.1489449>

Location

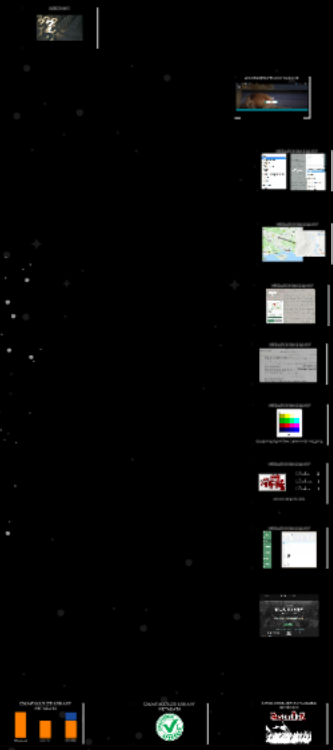
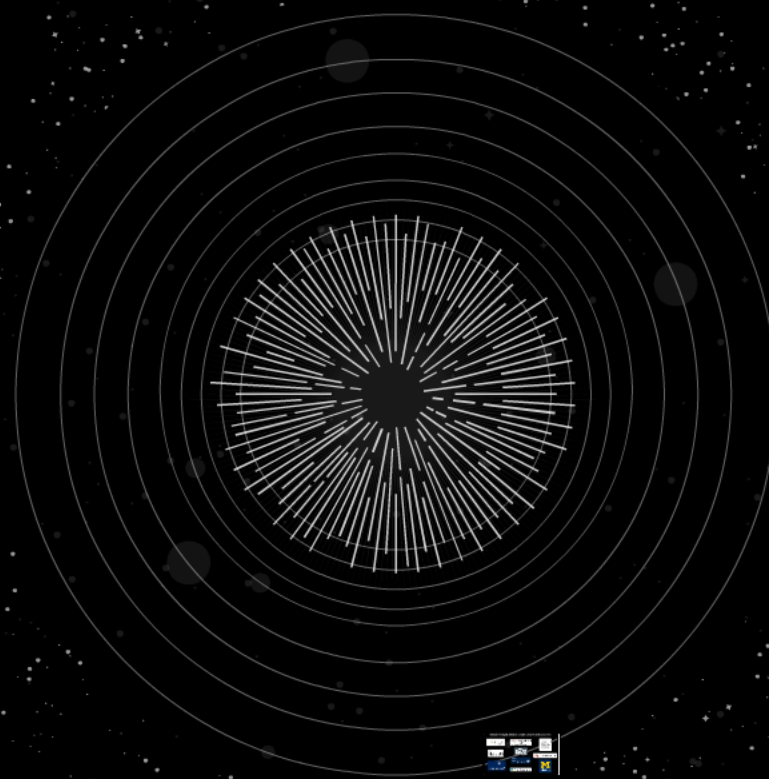
Keywords

Hidden collections, Crowdsourcing, Zooniverse, Operation War Diary, Digital Humanities, Metadata, Quality Control, Mass collaboration

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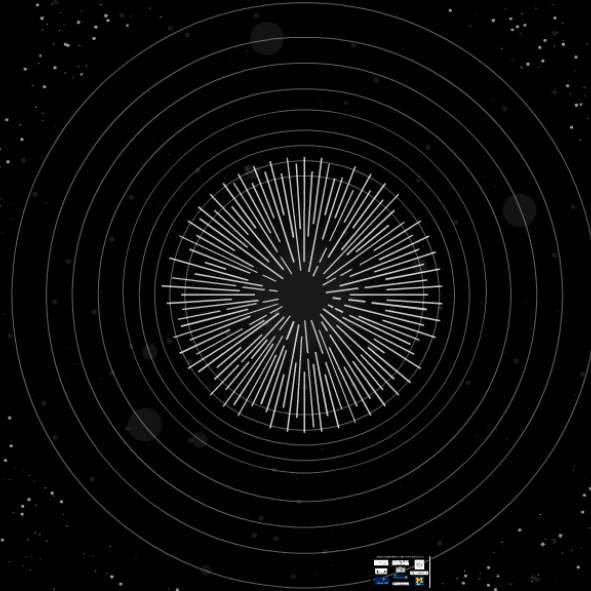
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Crowdsourcing Metadata

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Cataloging & Metadata Librarian
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**"If it's not online,
it doesn't exist"**

Association of Research Libraries (2007)

HIDDEN COLLECTIONS - PROBLEM

"uncataloged or inadequately described materials that are hidden from the view of library users for that reason"

(Prochaska, 2008)

"millions of items and collections – untapped knowledge resources – that are inaccessible to scholars"

(Yakel, 2005)



resources "unknown to, and unused by, the scholars it is our mission to serve"

(Tabb, 2004)

"one of the most serious and daunting issues facing the profession"

(Hubbard & Myers, 2010)

HIDDEN COLLECTIONS - SOLUTIONS

"flexible"
approach to
cataloging level

increased
collaboration



+ experiment?





CROWDFUNDING?

INDIEGOGO

KICKSTARTER



CROWDSOURCED DATA?



CROWDSOURCED DATA

Google



waze

CROWDSOURCED METADATA

ZOO NIVERSE


The logo for ZOO NIVERSE features the word "ZOO" in white, with the second "O" replaced by a stylized orange and yellow sun or star with a thin orange line passing through it. The word "NIVERSE" follows in white. The background is a dark space with faint orbital lines and a purple planet.

GALAXY ZOO



The logo for GALAXY ZOO features the words "GALAXY" and "ZOO" in white. The "Z" and "O" in "ZOO" are replaced by a stylized orange and yellow galaxy or nebula. Below the text is a large, colorful image of a galaxy with blue and orange/red regions.

CROWDSOURCED METADATA



Galaxy Zoo 

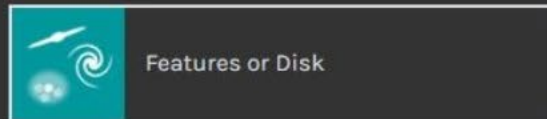
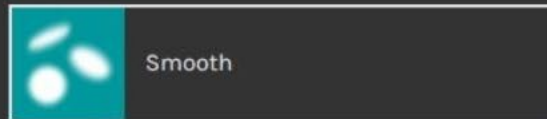


  You should sign in!

TASK

TUTORIAL

Is the galaxy simply smooth and rounded, with no sign of a disk?

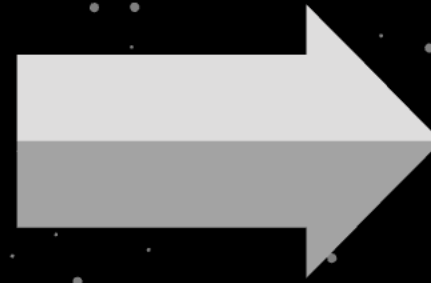
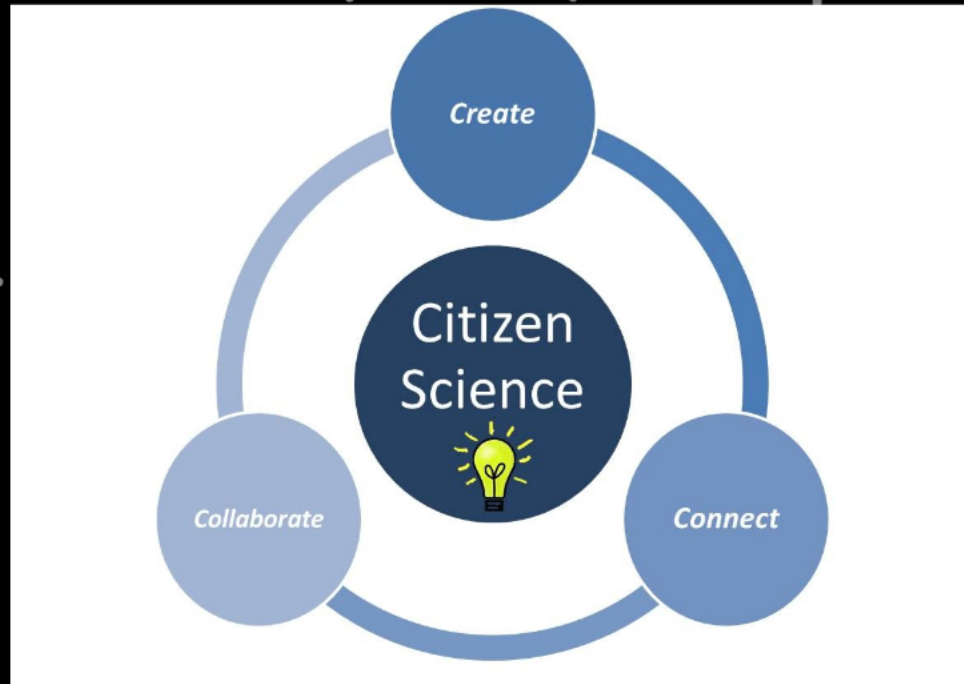


NEED SOME HELP WITH THIS TASK?

Done & Talk

Done

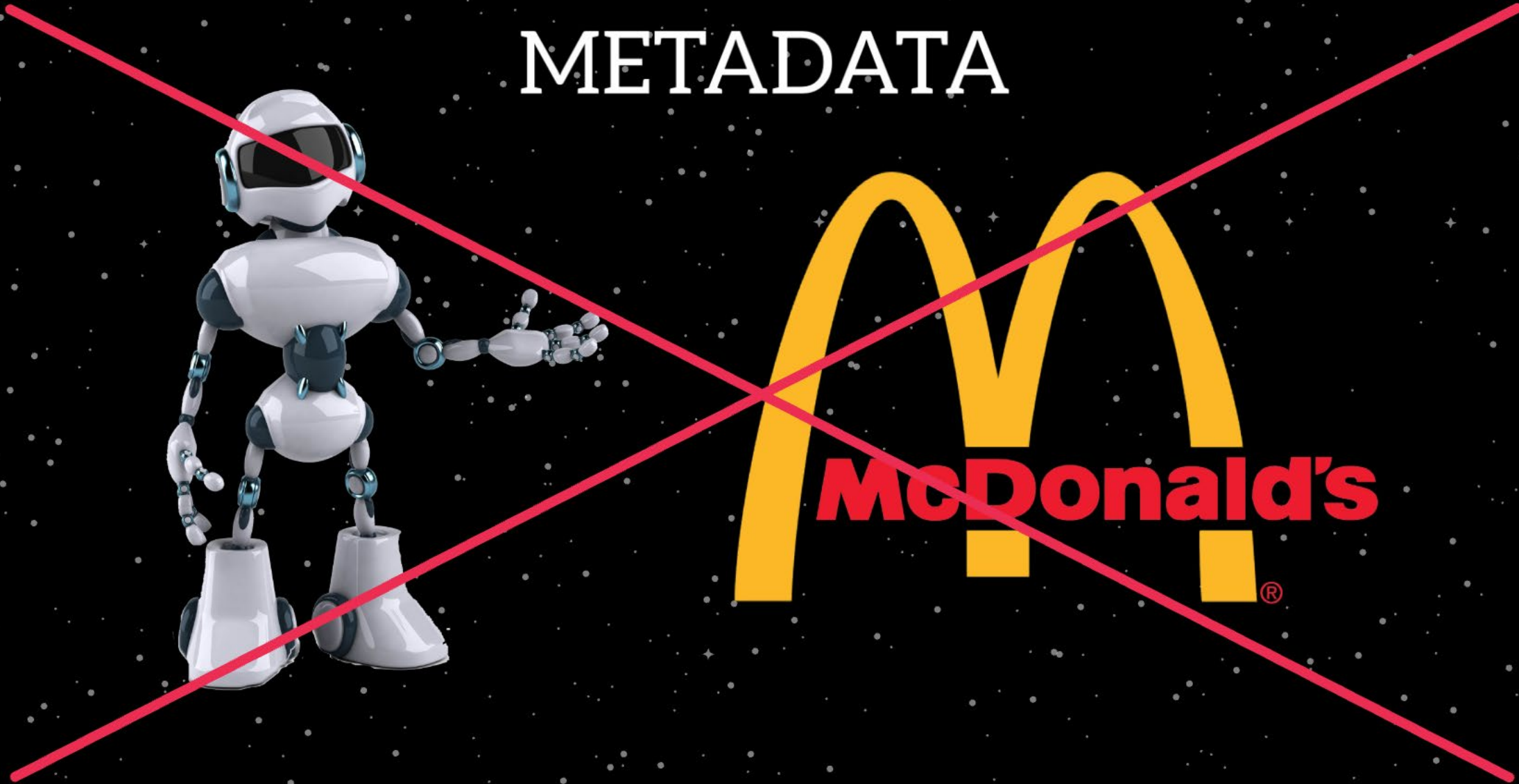
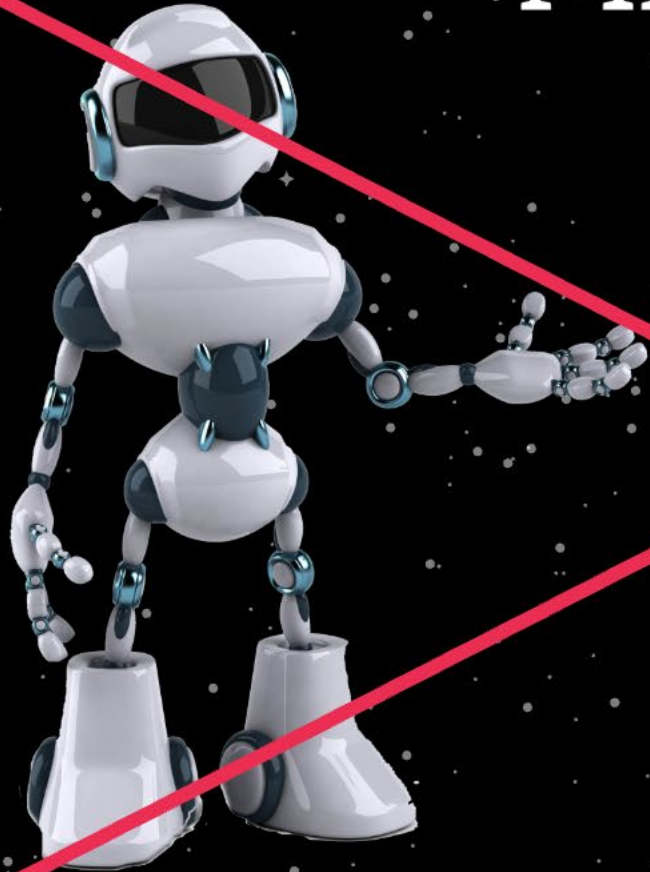
CROWDSOURCED LIBRARY METADATA



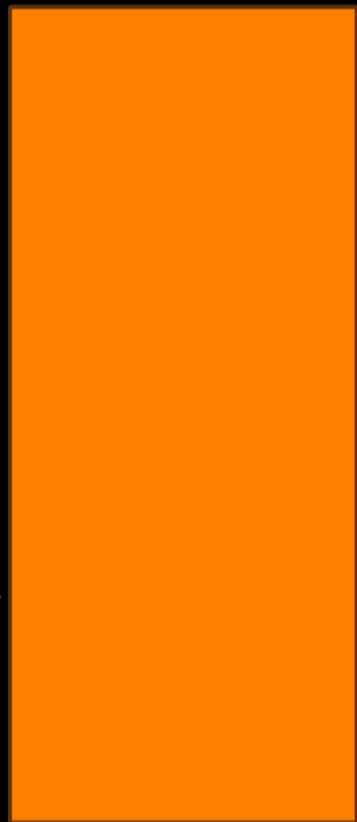
CROWDSOURCED LIBRARY METADATA



CROWDSOURCED LIBRARY METADATA



CROWDSOURCED LIBRARY METADATA



Workload



Capacity



Shortfall

CROWDSOURCED LIBRARY METADATA



REVOLUTIONARY CATALOGING
INTERFACE

REVOLUTION





OPERATION WAR DIARY

REPORTS FROM THE FRONT

The story of the British Army on the Western Front during the First World War is waiting to be discovered in 1.5 million pages of unit war diaries. We need your help to reveal the stories of those who fought in the global conflict that shaped the world we live in today.

[GET STARTED!](#)

Working together with Citizen Historians during the First World War Centenary

ZOONIVERSE



 The National Archives

OPERATION WAR DIARY

- 2 Get tagging!
- Date
- Time
- Place
- Person
- Unit Activity
- Army Life
- Casualties
- Unit strengt
- Weather
- Map sheet
- Grid ref
- Other unit

DCLC NEW

Books Rec stat n Entered 20181101 Replaced 20181101

Type	a	ELvl	I	Src	d	Audn		Ctrl		Lang	III
BLvl	m	Form		Conf	0	Biog		MRec		Ctry	III
		Cont		GPub		LitF	0	Indx	0		
Desc	I	Ills		Fest	0	DtSt	I	Dates	IIII		

040			CFI #b #c CFI
020			
041	I		#h #b
050	I	I	#b
090			#b
049			CFIM
111	I		
245	I	I	#h #b #c
246	I	I	
250			
260			#b #c
300			#b #c
490	I	I	#x #v
511			
611	I	I	
611	I	I	
711	I		
711	I		
811	I	I	#v
856	4	I	#u

OPERATION WAR DIARY



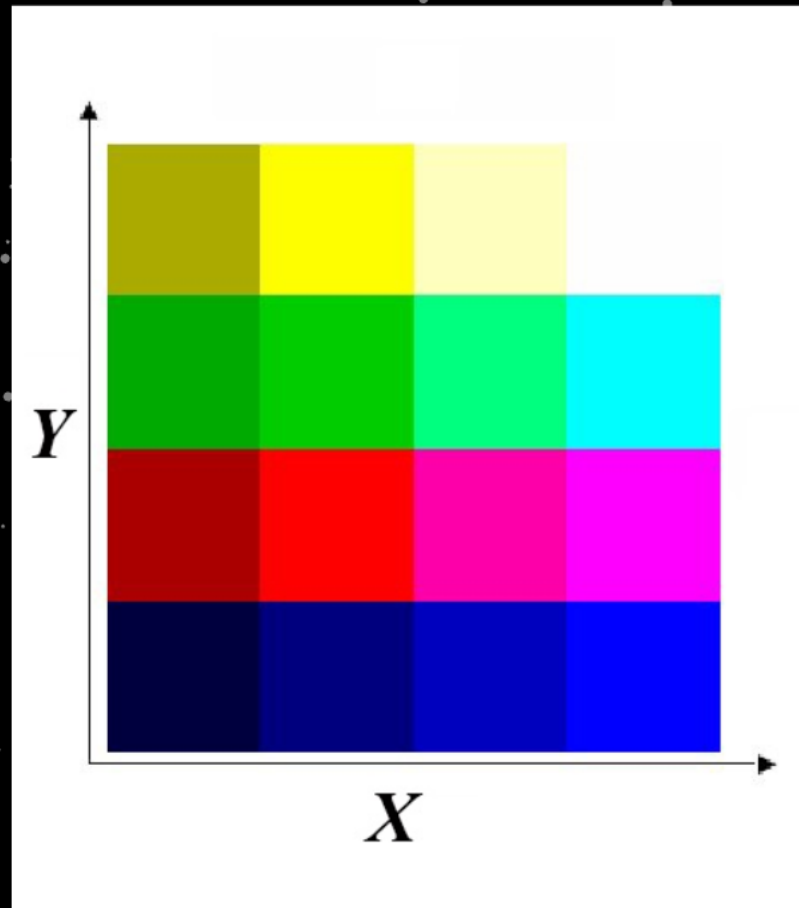
Barber 3

Barbour 1

Barbar 1

consensus principle

OPERATION WAR DIARY



clustering algorithm / proximity mapping

OPERATION WAR DIARY

WAR DIARY		Arms
ording War Diaries and Intelligence e contained in F. S. Rega., Part II. Manual respectively. Title pages red in manuscript.		
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY.		
(Brass heading not required.)		
Date	Hour	Summary of Events and Information
		Weather cold, slight snow and thaw after 11 a.m. Brigade marched to BLANDAIN a distance of 12 miles N.W. and billeted there. The four Batteries are billeted in a large Convent, an improvement on our old billets.
		Weather cold. Rain in morning. Day spent in cleaning up and settling in. 36th. and 55th. Batteries succeed in getting pract all their horses under cover. Captain & Adjutant T. GRANTHAM proceeded on 14 day's special leave to U.K.
		Weather cold. Thick fog. Day spent same as yesterday.
		Weather cold. Thick fog. Capt. URQUHART (36th Battery) returned from leave to U.K. 2/Lieut. CAVE (32nd. Battery) returned from leave to U.K.
		Weather fine. Sunshine and frost. 2/Lieut. F. WRIGHT (32nd. Battery) proceeded on 14 day's leave to U.K.
		Weather fine. Sunshine and Frost. Captain. J.G.S. MENNIE R.A.M.C. proceeded on 14 day's leave to U.K.
		Weather fine. Sunshine and frost.
		Weather fine. Warmer and dull. Divisional Education Officer lectured Brigade on Demobilisation Scheme.

Place

y

3% vertical
10% horizontal

x

OPERATION WAR DIARY

Place	Date	Hour	
Fullerton			DECEMBER
Field	10.12.17		Nothing to report - a Training from each Regt (replaces Squadron who had suffered of the 1 st - 2 nd . A practice constructed by the classes fitting up of a small off Lt: TWICZEK and RHA. line with all stores etc
	6		
	30.12.17		

Help



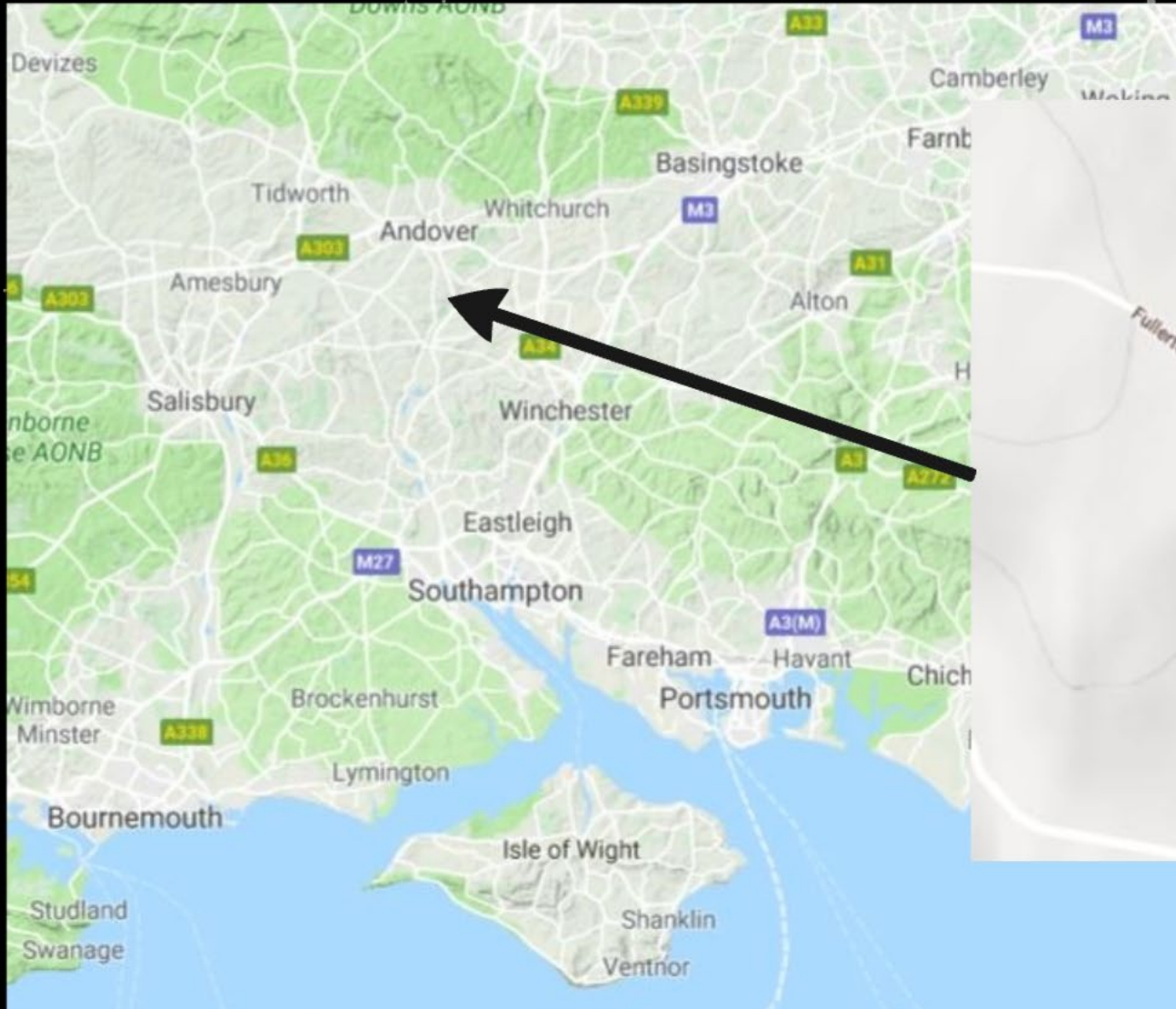
Name
Fullerton

Can you add this to the map?
None of these/not sure
Fullerton

Is the unit currently here?

✓ ×

OPERATION WAR DIARY



OPERATION WAR DIARY

Rank

None

None

Assistant Paymaster

Battery Sergeant Major

Bombardier

Brigadier

Brigadier General

Captain

Chaplain

Colonel

Colour Sergeant

Company Quarter Master Sergeant

Company Sergeant Major

Corporal

Driver

Drummer

Farrier

Farrier Sergeant

Field Marshal

Fusilier

General

DIARY

GE SUMMARY.

(ing not required.)

ary of Events and Information

J. A. Hope, Lieut A. W. H.
left and proceeded via

Sergeant Samuel Barber
(In command)

72 N.C.O's and Pfu (Hd
58 N.C.O's and Pfu (A & A

fine night. Perfectly calm
ru shewed 26 officers,
gangway spraining an
tremely steep hill. 2 1/2 m
20 N.C.O's and Pfu (A & A

Rank

Sergeant

First name

Samuel

Surname

Barber

Number

123456789

Reason

In command

In command

Author of diary

Joined or attached

Departed: sick

Departed: on leave

Departed: posted or detached to another unit

Departed: training

Resigned, Discharged or Demobilised

Returned: from hospital

Returned: from leave

Returned: from attachment

Returned: from training

ZOONIVERSE PROJECT BUILDER

[PROJECTS](#)[ABOUT](#)[GET INVOLVED](#)[TALK](#)[BUILD A PROJECT](#)[NEWS](#)[NOTIFICATIONS](#)[MESSAGES](#)[PRO-502](#)

ZOONIVERSE

Zooniverse Project Builder

Anyone can build a Zooniverse project. Just upload your data and choose the tasks you want the volunteers to do. To find out more, read our [How to Build a Project documentation](#), or click the button below to get started.

Sign in

Back to projects

Quick Links

- [Project Builder Help](#)
- [Project Builder Policies](#)
- [Best Practices Guide](#)
- [Acknowledgements](#)
- [Project Builder Talk](#)
- [Glossary](#)

ZOONIVERSE PROJECT BUILDER

PROJECTS ABOUT GET INVOLVED TALK BUILD A PROJECT NEWS

NOTIFICATIONS MESSAGES PRO-502



Kitteh Zoo

ABOUT CLASSIFY TALK COLLECT RECENTS

Classify cats. On the internet. For science.

Learn more

Get started

This project has been built using the Zooniverse Project Builder but is not yet an official Zooniverse project. Queries and issues relating to this project directed at the Zooniverse Team may not receive any response.

QUESTIONS?

