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Learn-STATIC: Innovative Digital Humanities Pedagogy With Static Web Technologies

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Learn-Static:

Innovative Digital Humanities Pedagogy With Static Web Technologies

Online Northwest, March 2022

Olivia Wikle and Evan Peter Williamson, University of Idaho
Kate Thornhill and Gabriele Hayden, University of Oregon



University of Idaho
Library



NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

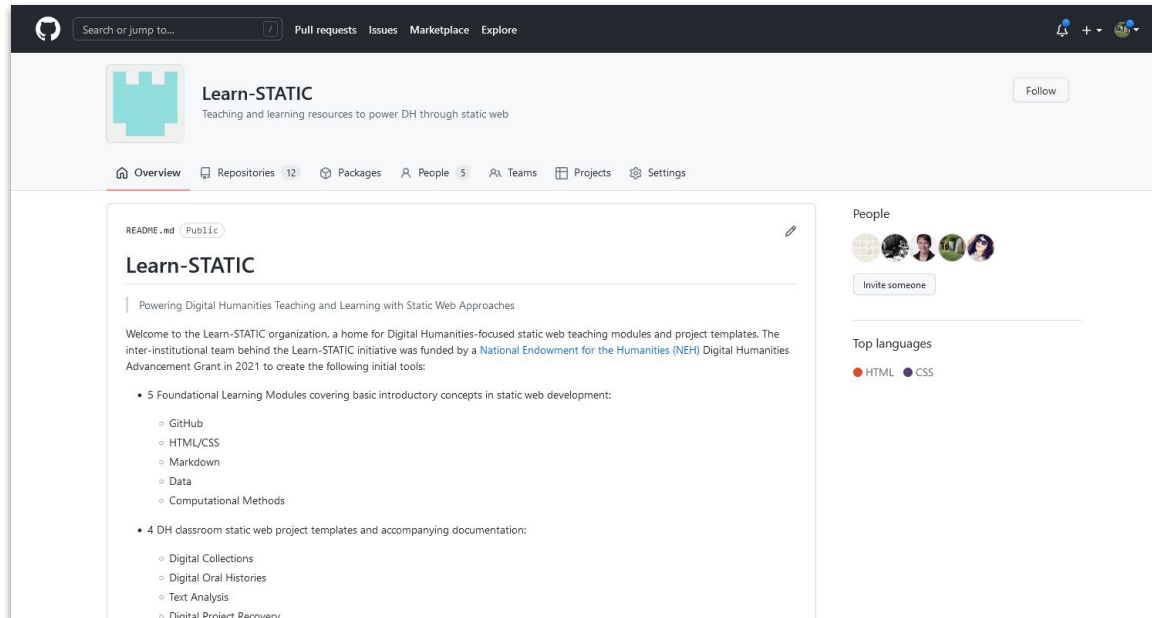


UNIVERSITY OF
OREGON

Libraries



Learn-Static



The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for Learn-Static. The repository is public and contains a README.md file. The README content is as follows:

Learn-STATIC

Powering Digital Humanities Teaching and Learning with Static Web Approaches

Welcome to the Learn-STATIC organization, a home for Digital Humanities-focused static web teaching modules and project templates. The inter-institutional team behind the Learn-STATIC initiative was funded by a [National Endowment for the Humanities \(NEH\)](#) Digital Humanities Advancement Grant in 2021 to create the following initial tools:

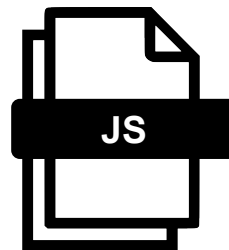
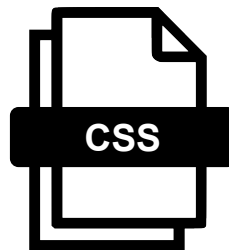
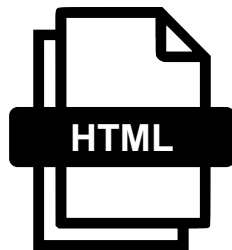
- 5 Foundational Learning Modules covering basic introductory concepts in static web development:
 - GitHub
 - HTML/CSS
 - Markdown
 - Data
 - Computational Methods
- 4 DH classroom static web project templates and accompanying documentation:
 - Digital Collections
 - Digital Oral Histories
 - Text Analysis
 - Digital Project Recovery

On the right side of the repository page, there is a 'People' section with a grid of profile pictures and an 'Invite someone' button. Below that is a 'Top languages' section showing 'HTML' and 'CSS' with colored indicators.

<https://github.com/learn-static>

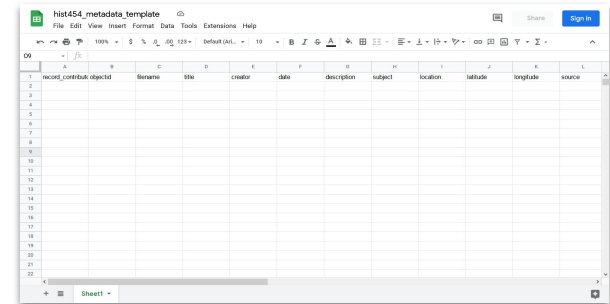
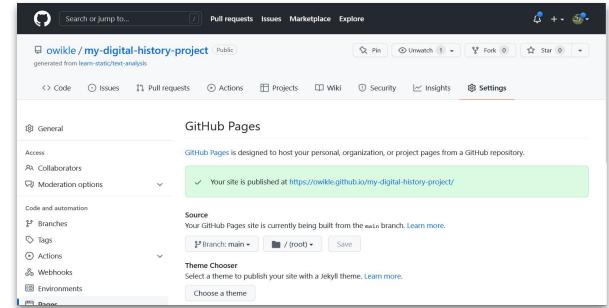
What is Static Web?

- Minimal infrastructure
- High performance
- Preservation-ready



Why Are Static Web Tools Useful in the Classroom?

- **Sustainable:** minimal setup and maintenance matches project cycles
- **Reusable:** open formats and platforms enable adaption
- **Customizable:** modify template and framing to meet learning goals and build unique projects
- **Transferable technical skills:** learn fundamentals, not platforms





Learn-Static Grant Activities

- **Personnel**
 - Librarians + English and History faculty at University of Idaho and University of Oregon
- **Timeline**
 - September 2021 - August 2022
- **Outputs**
 - 5 Foundational Learning Modules
 - 1 Workshop Template
 - 4 Learning Sequences

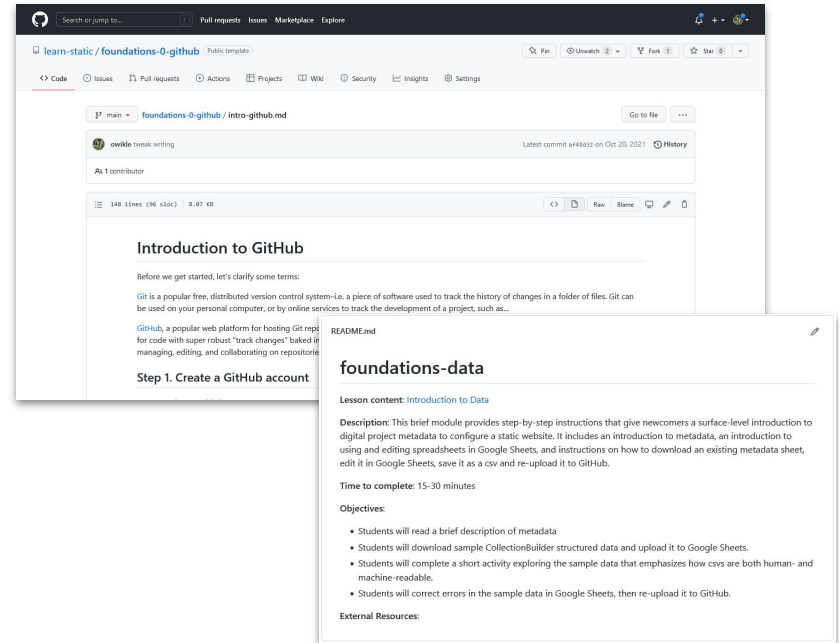


Learn-Static Grant Activities

- **Piloting**
 - Classrooms / Workshops
 - Spring 2022
- **Feedback & assessment**
 - Student/instructor feedback
 - Advisory Board review and feedback
 - Summer Convening, 2022

Foundational Learning Modules

- GitHub Basics
- HTML/CSS
- Markdown
- Data Concepts
- Computational Methods
- *Example Use Case: Workshop*



The screenshot displays a GitHub repository page for 'learn-static/foundations-0-github'. The main content is the README file, which is titled 'Introduction to GitHub'. The README text includes:

Introduction to GitHub

Before we get started, let's clarify some terms:

Git is a popular free, distributed version control system - i.e. a piece of software used to track the history of changes in a folder of files. Git can be used on your personal computer, or by online services to track the development of a project, such as...

GitHub, a popular web platform for hosting Git repositories for code with super robust "track changes" baked in for managing, editing, and collaborating on repositories.

Step 1. Create a GitHub account

foundations-data

Lesson content: [Introduction to Data](#)

Description: This brief module provides step-by-step instructions that give newcomers a surface-level introduction to digital project metadata to configure a static website. It includes an introduction to metadata, an introduction to using and editing spreadsheets in Google Sheets, and instructions on how to download an existing metadata sheet, edit it in Google Sheets, save it as a csv and re-upload it to GitHub.

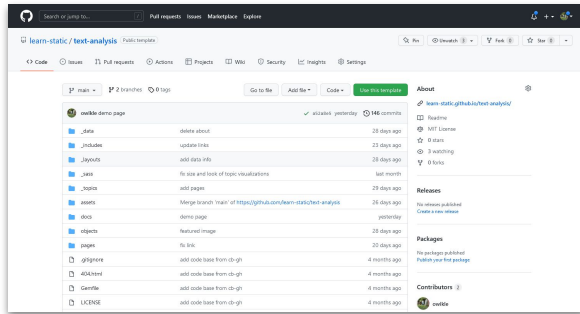
Time to complete: 15-30 minutes

Objectives:

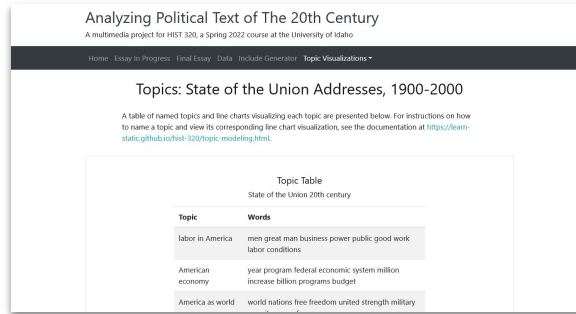
- Students will read a brief description of metadata
- Students will download sample CollectionBuilder structured data and upload it to Google Sheets.
- Students will complete a short activity exploring the sample data that emphasizes how csvs are both human- and machine-readable.
- Students will correct errors in the sample data in Google Sheets, then re-upload it to GitHub.

External Resources:

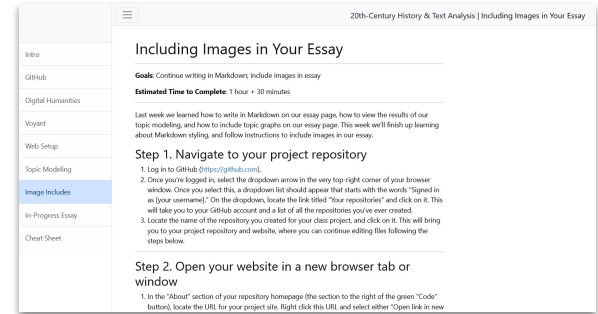
Learning Sequences



Project Template on GitHub

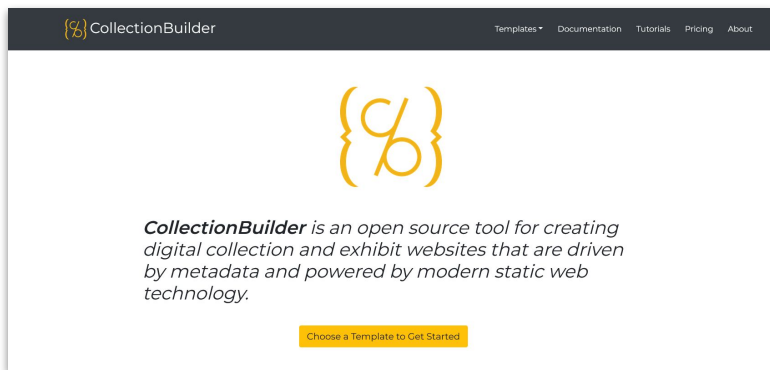


Demo Website



Project Documentation

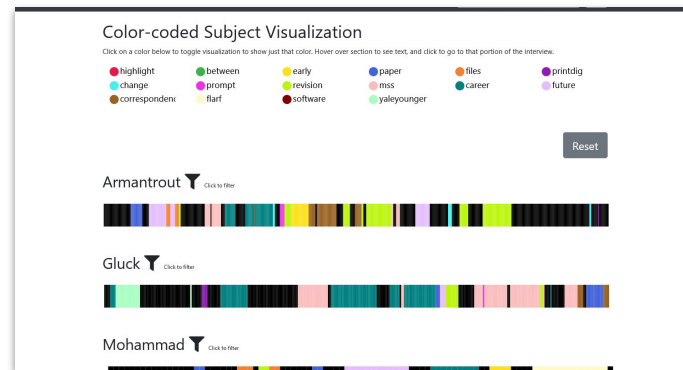
{%} CollectionBuilder



<https://collectionbuilder.github.io/>

Oral History (as) Data

Analyze and publish coded oral history and qualitative interviews



<https://uidaholib.github.io/oral-history-as-data/>

Learning Sequence: *Digital Collections*

- Students create and curate a digital collection
- Focus on:
 - Digitization, metadata, multimodal essays, web publishing
- Built on CollectionBuilder-Sheets framework



<https://thecdil.github.io/hist-454-2022/>

Learning Sequence: *Digital Oral Histories*

- Students encode an oral history file as data and visualize its content
- Focus on:
 - Data manipulation and cleaning
 - Qualitative coding and visualizations
 - Text as data
 - GitHub for collaboration
- Built on Oral History as Data framework

Code Your Transcript

At this point, you should have three documents:

1. A Google Doc version of the transcript
2. A Google Sheet named `lastnamefirstname_original`
3. A Google Sheet named `lastnamefirstname`. This is the file you'll be working on from now on. It should be a transcript that's set up like this...

	A	B	C	D
1	timestamp	speaker	words	tags
2		Rebecca Scofield	So, this is Rebecca Scofield and I am here with Joe Rodriguez on September 10th, 2016. And we are at the Rodeo on the River in Duncans Mills, California. So, could you tell me what year you were born?	
3	[00:00:00]	Joe Rodriguez	I was born in 1964.	
4		RS	Can you tell me where you grew up?	
5		JR	Grew up in the Bay Area in Fremont, Alameda County. Lived there most of my life until I was eighteen and then went off to San Francisco for college.	

Sample Transcript CSV

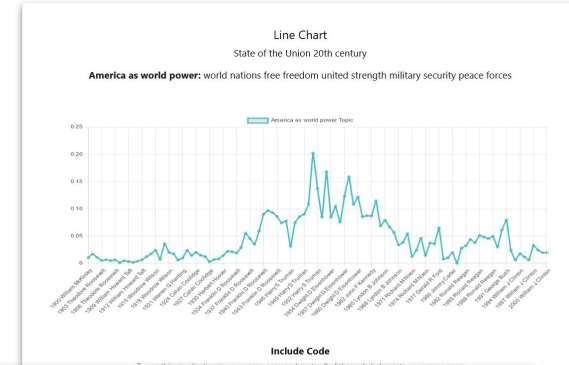
...with four columns labeled `timestamp`, `speaker`, `words`, and `tags`

Now it's time to start coding! Follow these steps:

- [Tag Your Transcript](#)
- [Remove Unwanted Content](#)
- [Identify Conversations](#)
- [Finish Up](#)

Learning Sequence: *Text Analysis*

- Students use text analysis tools to visualize historical texts; incorporate visualizations, images, and documents into a multimodal essay
- Focus on:
 - Text as data, primary sources
 - Writing for the web, multimodal essays
 - GitHub for web projects, web publishing
- Built on CollectionBuilder-GH framework



Contents: [Introduction](#) | [Legislation](#) | [Roadblocks](#) | [Conclusion](#) | [Notes](#)

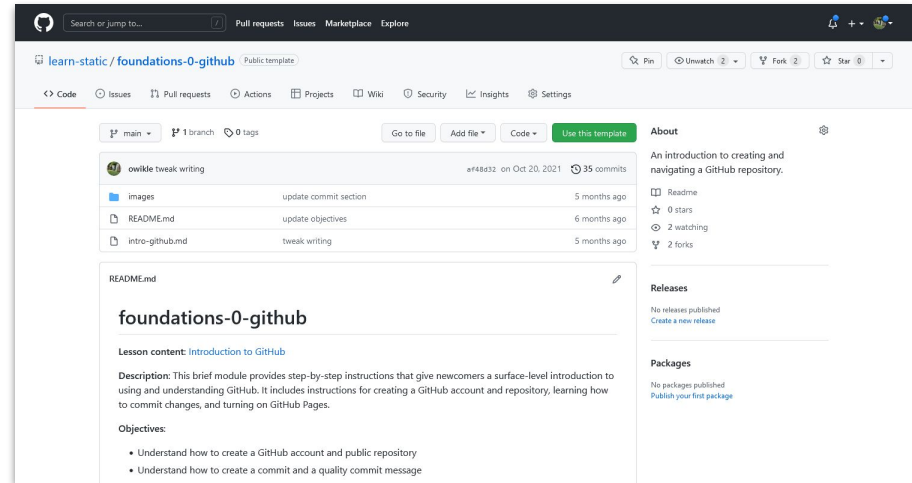
Roadblocks

During this same timeframe, a movement had begun where the United States government would create a series of roadblocks to make immigration logistically much more difficult. Congress passed the Immigration Act of 1917, which included the requirement that those immigrating must have the ability to read and write in their native language. This year marked the beginning of the Immigration Service using literacy tests as a prerequisite to immigration.¹⁴

The cartoon is titled "OUTBURSTS OF EVERETT TRUE". It depicts a man in a suit being questioned by an immigration official. The man says, "I can read and write." The official replies, "That's all right, but can you read this?" The man looks at a document and says, "I can't read that." The official then says, "That's all right, but can you write this?" The man looks at a piece of paper and says, "I can't write that."

Dissemination

- By September 2022:
 - Learning sequences, modules, and documentation available via GitHub:
<https://github.com/learn-static>



Curious about Learn-Static?

Check out our work at our GitHub organization,
<https://github.com/learn-static>

Or get in touch with us if you have questions or suggestions!

Contact omwikle@uidaho.edu

Thank you!