

Providing a Spatial Context for Library and Archival Collections:

Mapping Historic Aggieland

Katherine H. Weimer¹ and Miriam Olivares²

1. Library Coordinator, Professor, k-weimer@library.tamu.edu | 2. GIS Coordinator, olivares@tamu.edu

Map & GIS Library, Texas A&M University Libraries | www.library.tamu.edu/maps-gis

Web Mapping



POSITIVE OUTCOMES

- Institutional Visibility
- Alumni support
- Student engagement on campus history
- Awareness of GIS technology
- Model to apply in other projects
- Integration of dispersed information and archived materials

MAPPING HISTORIC AGGIELAND

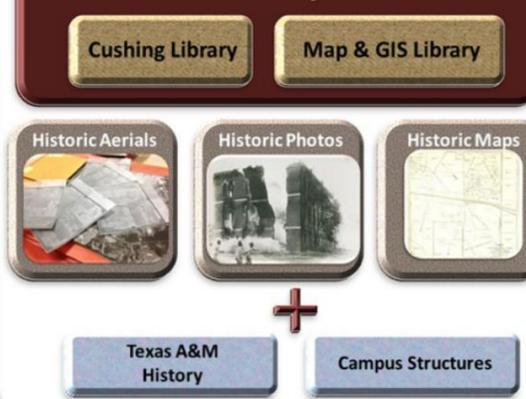
METHODOLOGY

Data was compiled from different sources and then integrated into a database that was linked to thematic layers of information.

Librarians, staff and student workers juxtaposed expertise on metadata, data curation, image editing, geospatial technology, web server, flex coding, cloud storage, etc.



Texas A&M Libraries Spatial Collections



Mash-Ups

Interactive Mapping

Appealing to:

- Silent Generation
- Baby Boomers
- Generation X
- Millennial
- Generation Z

Internet users in 2014

Among adults, the % who use the internet, email, or access the internet via a mobile device

	Use internet
All adults	87%
Sex	
a Men	87
b Women	86
Race/ethnicity*	
a White	85
b African-American	81
c Hispanic	83
Age group	
a 18-29	97 ^d
b 30-49	93 ^d
c 50-64	88 ^d
d 65+	57
Education level	
a High school grad or less	76
b Some college	91 ^d
c College+	97 nd

Data Source: Pew Research Center Internet Project Survey
http://www.pewinternet.org/data-trend/internet-use/latest-stats/

- 56% Americans own a smart phone
 - 87% U.S. adults use internet
 - 74% adults use smart phone to get direction or other spatial information
- ...Libraries must leverage on trends of technology to engage patrons and continue

TECHNOLOGY USED

The platform selected to integrate all types of information is Esri's ArcGIS Viewer for Flex, a ready-to-deploy client application that can be customized with basic programming skills. Out of the box functions, called widgets, allows to easily offer useful features such as time-enabled navigation, search by name engine or selectable layers.

```

config.xml - Notepad
url="widgets/Splash/SplashWidget.swf"/>

<- replace the following url with your own geometryservice ->
<geometryservice
url="http://tasks.arcgisonline.com/ArcGIS/rest/services/Geometry/GeometryServer" />
<- replace the following key with your own Bing key ->
<-bing key="Ahu1due6dkmZg98uUJYLVmYDik4oleC6hNqX6jZFYRtoImQH11HH-
asjH7"/>

<- UI elements ->
<widget left="10" top="50" config="widgets/Navigation/NavigationWidget.xml"
url="widgets/Navigation/NavigationWidget.swf"/>
<widget right="2" bottom="2" config="widgets/OverviewMap/OverviewMapWidget.xml"

```



Image sources:
Laptop, <http://traq.tv/traqtv/images/laptop5.png>
Spiral arrow, <http://www.kayfranklin.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Arrow-Blue-20.png>
Internet usage, <http://www.pewinternet.org/files/2014/02/12-internet-users-in-2014.jpg>

OVERVIEW

Libraries and archives have large collections of historic maps and photos. Creative digital exhibits allow users a unique framework to these collections, with mapping platforms providing a spatial context to collections and serving as a visually appealing browse mechanism. Librarians and staff from the Map & GIS Library at Texas A&M University used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology to present "Mapping Historic Aggieland," a digital collection of historic maps, aerial photos, and photos of significant sites and buildings on campus. These materials, which span a century, are gathered to tell the story of the growth of the university over 100 years. Geospatial technology is used to display the digitized copies of the maps in georeferenced form, and photos in their correct geographic location on campus. Users, from alumni to current students, make use of the digital collection and gain understanding of the expansion of the campus and styles of architecture over the years. Archival photos of campus buildings include the dates that they were built which allow the user to browse the collection over time period using a time slider

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

- Ongoing research continues to expand the scope of campus history
- Creation of internships for undergraduate and graduate students
- Upgrading to latest ArcGIS Server versioning
- Increase efficiency by tiling aerial imagery
- Mapping important traditions such as Bonfire, President's Homes, Fish Pond.
- Mobile App
- Other lightweight software is being evaluated such as Omeka/Neatline, Leaflet, ViewShare or HistoryPin
- Community Outreach through participation on public events
- Strengthen networking with key groups

