

# Choose Your Own Adventure:

## DIGITAL METHODS FOR BYZANTINISTS

**HANDOUT 1 / Pre-Workshop Materials / Complete before Friday, October 22, 2021**

This workshop is part of the partnership between the Mary Jaharis Center for Byzantine Art and Culture and the Byzantine Studies Association of North America to provide professional development opportunities to graduate students and early career researchers. The workshop will take place via Zoom on October 22, 2021 from 2:00-3:30 pm EST with Dr. A.L. McMichael.

Before the workshop on Friday, complete the steps below.

### Choose a topic

#### Collect content for your digital project

- Any topic that you enjoy enough to present online, and for which you can find digitized research materials will be good for this workshop. A topic could be [for instance] mosaics, cross-shaped objects in museum collections, primary sources documenting Emperor Justinian, sources depicting or describing Hagia Sophia, manuscript illuminations of Christ Enthroned, imperial portraits, depictions of women.
- Select 5-7 historical sources (items) that relate to your topic (ex: objects, monuments, documents, news articles, videos).
- Document each item.
  - Note the item's name and relevant caption info (such as date, place created, museum collection, location, etc).
  - Record where you found it (your own photo, museum website URL, a publication).
  - Collect each image file or where to find it online (jpg file, screenshot, URL).

***Don't stress too much—this is supposed to be fun!***

- If you can't decide, just pick 5 favorite objects from The Met's Byzantine collection online. <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search#!?q=byzantine>
- If you don't have time to select items, come to the workshop anyway and we'll have some materials you can use.

### Contextualize your topic

- Write a 2-3 sentence introduction to your topic.

- Write a **brief overview** of your collection of items. (About two paragraphs is fine). If you have an existing abstract or essay, that's also good. *This step is optional but will make your project more polished by the end of the workshop.*

## Omeka sign-up

### Sign up for a free account before the workshop

- Sign up for an Omeka account: <https://www.omeka.net/signup>
- Click “**Start your free Omeka trial.**” Be sure to click the free version!
- Finish signing up and make sure you can log in. (A laptop or desktop is preferable to a tablet or Chromebook for this workshop).
- That's it for now! We'll do the rest in the workshop.

Technical questions or concerns? Email A.L. McMichael: [mcmich17@msu.edu](mailto:mcmich17@msu.edu)

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## Brainstorming help

### Some ideas for topics

- A seminar paper you never got around to publishing as an article. Maybe that essay on ceramic vessels would make a good piece of digital public scholarship?
- Your dissertation (or a small part of it). A multimedia site can augment the PDF.
- A selection of objects that would make a good online exhibit. This could be an opportunity to digitally curate objects from a variety of museums all in one (virtual) place, or to incorporate monuments and archaeological sites into the exhibit of your dreams.
- A selection of images for a lesson plan. Think of a small, curated set of objects that could be used to teach a specific lesson on Byzantine saints, or church architecture, or....
- Media coverage of a Byzantine topic. Byzantium is regularly in the news, and the sources could usually use some context from an expert.

### Sources for items

- The Met: <https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection>
- American Numismatic Society, MANTIS catalog: <http://numismatics.org/search/>
- vHMML: <https://www.vhmml.org/museum>
- For more ideas, see this Image Collections list in Zotero: [https://www.zotero.org/groups/2135890/byzantine\\_data/collections/IJSHH6JN](https://www.zotero.org/groups/2135890/byzantine_data/collections/IJSHH6JN)