

Choose Your Own Adventure:

DIGITAL METHODS FOR BYZANTINISTS

Dr. A.L. McMichael

Director, LEADR

Lab for Education & Advancement in Digital Research

Michigan State University

Email: mcmich17@msu.edu

Web: ByzantineData.org

Twitter: @ByzCapp



Digital Methods for Byzantinists

TOPICS FOR THIS WORKSHOP

- Best practice in digital humanities research
 - Conducting an environmental scan
 - Constructing humanities research as data
 - Visualizing research using digital tools
 - Building a digital collection on the web
-

Research as Data

WHAT KIND(S) OF DATA DO YOU HAVE?

WHAT RESEARCH QUESTIONS DO YOU WANT TO ADDRESS?

Texts

One document; a large corpus;
translations; paleography.

Objects

portable objects; museum
collections; monuments;
artifacts; provenance.

Ephemeral

Three-dimensional
spaces; events.

Archaeology

Legacy data; excavation reports;
field notebooks; current dig
information.

Places

Locations; infrastructure;
networks; routes.

Research as Data

WHAT KIND(S) OF DATA DO YOU HAVE?

WHAT RESEARCH QUESTIONS DO YOU WANT TO ADDRESS?

Recommended Resource

The Alexandria Archive:
Digging Up Data Workshop Series
and Data Literacy Program

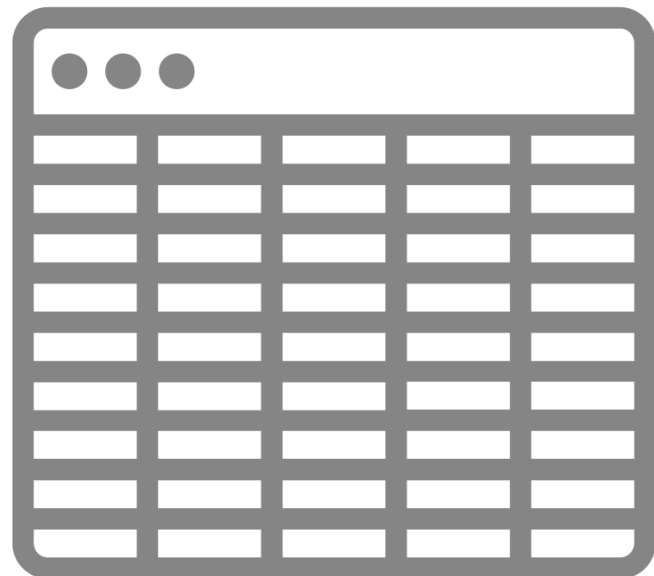
<https://alexandriaarchive.org/digging-up-data/>

DATA COLLECTION

- Be specific about what you are collecting and why.
- Organize the workflow and choose tools to fit the task at hand.
- Consider longevity: will your tools and equipment be available beyond grad school?
- Document sources and decisions along the way.
- Use controlled vocabularies for consistency and connection to others.
- Make ethical decisions about sensitive data (eg: people, cultural heritage, monument locations).



VS





research methods

Digital methodologies and
born-digital formats

outreach

Dissemination of research
and public scholarship

GETTING STARTED with
digital research

Pick one approach and keep it

SMALL

connection

Understanding others' work
for review and collaboration

teaching

Engaged pedagogy and
experiential learning

Content Management in Omeka

EXAMPLES OF OMEKA PROJECTS

Destinations in Mind

<https://wellesley-omeka-s.libraryhost.com/s/destinations-in-mind/page/Home>

Accompaniment to an academic monograph

Medieval Art

<http://projects.leadr.msu.edu/medievalart/neatline/show/medieval-art>

Undergraduate class project at MSU

Byzantine Art and Archaeology on Europeana

<https://cmc.byzart.eu/>

Byzart project at Ionian University

Byzantine Digital Humanities

<https://alimcbklyn.omeka.net/>

A project created for this workshop

Next Steps

HOSTING AND SUPPORT

- Omeka.net is free
 - Omeka.org (needs a web hosting service)

 - Reclaim Hosting web hosting service
 - lots of tools/software, not just Omeka
 - annual fee
 - other web hosting services (with annual fee)

 - GitHub (free, can be used to launch websites)
 - Humanities Commons (free WordPress sites)

 - Hosted tools (freeware)
 - proprietary vs open source
 - Proprietary considerations: ads, data collection, lack of agency, unexpected changes

 - Your institution: Library, DH lab or center, Digital Scholarship lab, microgrants, Domain of One's Own (Reclaim Hosting provided by institution)
-