

The background features a perspective grid of lines in blue, green, and red, creating a sense of depth. Overlaid on this are several flowing, translucent ribbons in vibrant red and cyan colors, which curve and swirl across the frame, adding a dynamic, organic feel to the geometric grid.

Storytelling & digital timelines with **TimelineJS**

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OVERVIEW

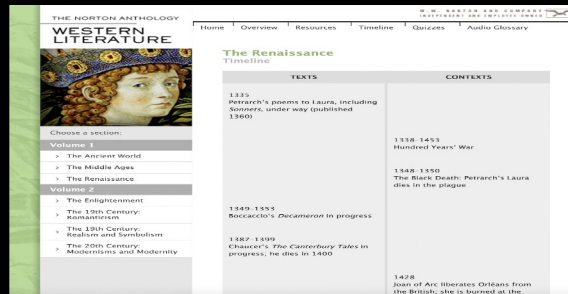


WHY DIGITAL TIMELINES?

Standard print timelines VS digital timelines

Timelines are visual representations that chart events over a period of time

Norton Anthologies:
[Norton Anthology of Western Literature](#)



Digital timelines use interactive features of technology to include events consisting of images, hyperlinks to texts, embedded videos, and maps.

British Library Digital Galleries of Timelines:
[Digital Timelines](#)



TimelineJS

- “**TimelineJS** is an **open-source tool** that enables anyone to build visually rich, interactive timelines.” <https://timeline.knightlab.com/> (Created by Northwestern University Knight Lab)
- As a platform, it allows students to **integrate interactive, visually rich and multimodal digital items** in a **chronologically ordered** way
- **Multimedia** in the form of videos, images, audios along with linked tweets, digital visualization assignments and resources can be added to **enhance students writing**
- It's **easy for students to use** and **collaborate** on with peers to build and develop

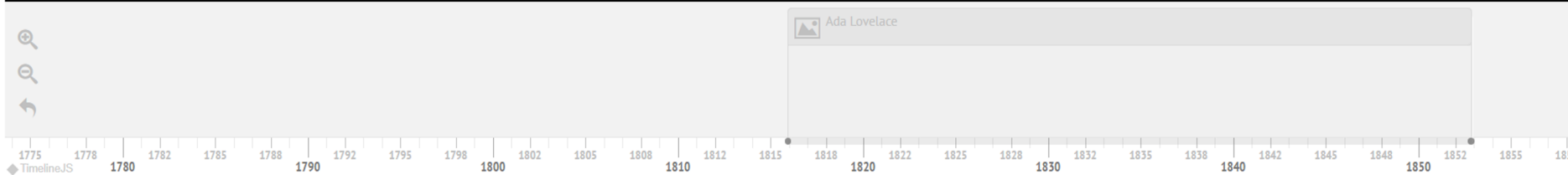


TimelineJS is a free platform for students to build digital timelines that can do more than “present a static linear progression of dates and names”

Samples

WOMEN IN COMPUTING

In this sample timeline, we'll walk you through what TimelineJS can do by looking at some of the more important contributions women have made to computer science.



More samples

[Women in Computing](#)

[Whitney Houston](#)

[The life of Confucious](#)

[C.S. Lewis](#)

[Gender Bias in Arthur Conan Doyle's novels](#)

[Good & Evil in Robert Louis Stevenson](#)

[Fashion in three novels](#)

[Charles Dickens \(1\)](#)

[Monsters and Heroes](#)

[Charles Dickens \(2\)](#)



Classroom applications

American & English Literature Survey courses at AUB

- Humanities electives
- Students come from a variety of majors
- Students with a diverse range of educational backgrounds and skills

Classroom applications

American & English Literature Survey courses at AUB

- Tracking author's accomplishments
- Tracing main themes and characters
- Exploring trends and changes in writing careers



Classroom applications

Writing in the Disciplines graduate courses

- Graduate students from a variety of majors & educational backgrounds
-
- Research papers
-
- Visualize Literature Reviews



Classroom applications

Introductory DH courses

- Platform for individual/collaborative digital projects
-
- Brainstorm research topics
-
- Add visualizations from digital tools with analysis



Learning Outcomes

- **chart out important events**, motifs, themes, and landmark figures using multimedia enhancements
- **depict events** in a chronological order
- ingeniously **showcase understanding** of events or trends for a particular topic / literary period / episode / literary work / motif / and character
- break information into parts to **understand the impact of time and space** on perspective and identify trends
- develop **inquiry-based learning strategies**



Learning Outcomes

- practice and **produce critical arguments** in many formats, other than the traditional format of the academic essay
- find **ways of connecting ideas**, themes, events etc **to build arguments** about change or continuity
- **break down information** in a linear and nonlinear way to identify and analyze how unrelated events can be contextualized into a broader context
- **compare and contrast** between events and themes by visualizing similarities and differences
- **see relationships** between events, research papers in a literature review, etc



Learning Outcomes

- document and **acknowledge variety of multimodal sources**
- manage and **self-direct** own time
- create collaborative, interactive, multimedia, and visually attractive **student-centered digital spaces**
- extend **writing beyond the classroom**
- exercise and **utilize 21st century technology** (Moodle forums, Wikis, Open Source Software: TimelineJS & Online Platforms etc.)
- **explore the English literary tradition** in a student-centred way

What do you need to make it work?

- The Internet
- timelineknightlab.com
- Gmail account
- Google spreadsheet template (generated by Knightlab)
- Multimedia from a variety of sources: Check [Supported Media types on the TimelineJS site](#)
 - Twitter
 - Instagram
 - Flickr
 - Google Maps
 - SoundClouds
 - Storify
 - Vimeo
 - URLs of Online materials: sites, images, resources
 - Student-Generated/Created digital content: Photos, visualizations from digital tools: maps, word clouds, networks, videos, etc
 - Texts (paragraphs)
 - Bibliography

Hands on

- TimelineJS runs on Google templates. In order to use it, you must log on to your Google account.
 - Go to <http://timeline.knightlab.com/>
 - You will get:
 - Timeline Example plus videos
 - Overview tab: to learn more and grab few tips before you begin
 - Examples tab: Timeline Examples
 - Clicking on **Make a Timeline** tab will direct you to a 3 step-by-step timeline creation
 - Click on **Get the Spreadsheet Template** to get started
- You will be redirected to a Copy document page.
- Click on the button **Make a Copy**
- You will reach the Timeline spreadsheet Template page
- Click on the **Copy of the Official TimelineJS3 Template** in the top left corner and give your spreadsheet another title
 - **Share** the spreadsheet with your group members

Getting to Know Your Spreadsheet

You are now in your TimelineJS Template. There are examples on each section to guide you on how to use this.

For the sake of this workshop: don't change the column headers, don't remove any columns, and don't leave any blank rows in your spreadsheet – just edit the content.

- In the first four columns A-D are the dates of your timeline entry.
- You can just enter the year, or you can get down to details such as month, day, or even time of the event
 - Each date you wish to include in your Timeline will appear in this horizontal row
 - To add more rows, click the “ADD” tab on the bottom left. Next to it, you can enter how many rows you wish to add
 - The more rows you create, the longer you make your timeline

Getting to Know Your Spreadsheet

- Columns E-H are optional. You have the option to add end dates. Spans of time will display in the bottom portion of the timeline
- Column I represents a display date over any slide of your timeline. It can be helpful so that TimelineJS knows how to display the date
- Columns J–K contain the Headline (Title) and the body Text (Description) of your timetable
- You can add your media in column L by entering the link to the media you want to display. TimelineJS supports several sources like Twitter, Instagram, Flickr, Google Maps, DropBox, DocumentCloud, Wikipedia, SoundCloud, Storify, iframes, tweets, and videos from major video sites like YouTube or Vimeo

Getting to Know Your Spreadsheet

- In column M, you can credit the media's original source, and in column N you can include a short caption.
- Column P can be used to activate special features:
- Title: No date required; shows before all
- Era: Uses a row to label a span of time on x axis; each era has a distinct color. Currently, this feature is not well-supported and they are looking for design strategies to be used for these cases
- Markers for slides that contain media show a small icon representing the type of media used. If you'd like, you can show a thumbnail of the media there, instead. Simply add the URL of the image you'd like to use to column O

Getting to Know Your Spreadsheet

- Column Q TimelineJS automatically orders slides according to their start date, and always puts the title slide first, no matter how the rows in your spreadsheet are ordered.
- If you need to have two slides with exactly the same start date, then the row which appears first in the spreadsheet will be shown first in the timeline.

Using the Group column (Q), you can organize your slides by groups:

- You can put any values you want in the Group column
- Events with the same group will be put in the same row or adjacent rows, and TimelineJS will use the text from the Group column as a label at the left edge of the row(s) containing those events
- The group text will also be displayed on each slide
- If you like, you can have a mix of slides in groups and slides with a blank value in the Group column.
- To set the Background of the slide to a specific color, enter a CSS color value, CSS named color, or the URL to an image in the Background column R.

Let's add some items & publish to the Web

Images including Giphy

To capture an image and add it to your spreadsheet, try to find a small sized image 200 x 400 and right click on the image and copy the image location and paste in the media column on your spreadsheet.

Sound clouds:

You would need to create an account with Soundcloud. Then in the search window, try to find something relevant to your topic/event

Youtube videos:

Youtube videos can be added to your timeline by pressing on the Share button under the video, copy the url and paste it on media column on the spreadsheet

Tweets:

To capture a tweet, click on the image in the tweet, then copy the URL at the top of the screen, post on media column.

Let's add some items & publish to the Web

Maps:

Search google for a topic, then press maps and browse the maps that are available. If you have created a map on google and want to add a searchable map, click on share, make sure the map is made public (published to the web) then copy the URL from the "embed" feature and add to the media column in the spreadsheet.

You can also take screenshots of maps and add them as a static image. Save your screenshot on Drive, publish to the web, then capture the Shared URL and paste in media column.

Hyperlinks: If you want to link your entries in the Description section, use this formula: `<a`

`href="LINK"target="_blank">TEXT`

if you want to add a link to an important paper, blog or website add this formula: `TEXT`
in the **LINK** add the url and in **TEXT** add a word that will contain the hyperlink

`TEXT`

Let's Add Some Items and Publish to the Web

Let's Add Some Items and Publish to the Web

Row 2	Column	Replace...	By...
	J	Headline	All the World's A Stage
	K	Text	"All the world's a stage / And all the men and women merely players." So wrote William Shakespeare. Between his birth in 1564 and his death exactly 52 years later, Shakespeare wrote 36 plays and 154 sonnets that managed to capture virtually every facet of the human experience
	L	Media – Flickr Image Link	https://www.flickr.com/photos/poetrybooks/6926228826
	M	Media Credit	Flickr.com
	N	Media Caption	Shakespeare by Thomas Boyde (1980)
	R	Background	Choose an image or a color from CSS hex color https://media2.giphy.com/media/oRfKrv2eTF6Hm/200w.gif

Let's Add Some Items and Publish to the Web

Let's Add Some Items and Publish to the Web

Row 3	A	Year	1601
	J	Headline	Shakespeare's Tragedies: <i>Hamlet</i>
	K	Text	One of Shakespeare's famous tragedies is <i>Hamlet</i> . It is believed that his father's death motivated Shakespeare to write <i>Hamlet</i> around this time. Take a listen to one of its audio extracts
	L	Media – SoundCloud Link	https://soundcloud.com/penguin-books/hamlet-audio-extract
	M	Media Credit	Penguin Books UK
	N	Media Caption	An Audio of Hamlet
	R	Background	Choose an image/Giphy or a color from

Let's Add Some Items and Publish to the Web

Row 4	A	Year	1609
	J	Headline	Sonnets Published
	K	Text	Publisher Thomas Thorpe prints a collection of 154 of Shakespeare's sonnets.
	L	YouTube Example	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C5OLBs-vX7Y
	N	Caption	YouTube recordings of the Sonnets
	R	Background	Choose an image or a color from CSS hex color

Row 5	A	Year	1613
	J	Headline	His Final Plays
	K	Text if you want to add a link to an important paper, blog or website add this formula: TEXT in the LINK add the url and in TEXT add a word that will contain the hyperlink	Shakespeare composes his final plays— <i>Henry VIII, Two Noble Kinsmen</i> (possibly written in 1614), and the now-lost <i>Cardenio</i> —in collaboration with John Fletcher, replacement playwright for the <i>King's Men</i> .
	L	Media - Tweet	https://twitter.com/sakiihuda/status/846623224322514944 https://twitter.com/Willieshakes300/status/702574106223448066
	M	Media Credit	Tweet on his Final plays
	N	Caption	Tweet on his Final plays
	R	Background	Choose an image or a color from <u>CSS hex color</u> <u>#5F9EA0</u>

Let's add some items and publish to the Web

Row 6	A	Year	1564
	J	Headline	Birth
	K	Text	William Shakespeare was born in Stratford-upon-Avon to John and Mary Arden Shakespeare, on 23 April 1564.
	L	Media - Map	https://www.google.com/maps/place/Stratford-upon-Avon,+UK/@52.1966407,-1.7480159,13z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m5!3m4!1s0x4870c523f8188037:0xaf31886dcf419977!8m2!3d52.19173!4d-1.708298?hl=en
	M	Media Credit	Google Maps
	N	Media Caption	Shakespeare's Birthplace is a famous touristic site
	R	Background	Choose an image or a color from <u>CSS hex color</u> #00FFFF

Publish to the Web

Once you have finished editing your spreadsheet, you are ready to publish it.

Click on **File** at the top left of your Google spreadsheet go to **Share** and select **Publish to the web**

Then click the blue **Publish** button

In the pop-up window, make sure you are under the **Link** tab, then click on **Publish content and settings** make sure that **Automatically republish when changes are made** is checked and that **Entire Document** is selected. Now click on **Publish** then **OK** and close the window.

copy the URL of your spreadsheet

Go back to TimelineJS website

Paste spreadsheet URL into in Step 3 text box and click on **Preview**

Extra Options

(make sure you've published the spreadsheet), and check you're happy with the width, height, language, font etc.

You can click on the **SHOW** option to show the settings:

- Language: Dates for example and interface turn to Arabic

- Fonts

- Map type

- Default start Slide: You can tell TimelineJS to start at a specific slide number.

- Initial Zoom Level: The zoom level at which the timeline portion of TimelineJS will display on load. Specify a value from 0-10 (default is 2).

- Smaller numbers show a greater span of time

- Start at the end: Begins the timeline on the last slide

- Show nav on top: Switches the vertical order of the timeline navigation and the media

Generate a Code

Your code has now been generated. You just need to copy Copy this embed code and paste it on your site where you want your timeline to appear (just like a YouTube video). Once you've completed that, you can then see how your timeline will look like by clicking on **Preview**

As you notice, the order of the rows in the sheet is irrelevant. Timeline takes the time and chronology into account.

If you need to modify your timeline go back to the spreadsheet and add a new row.

Click on **Preview** and the updates will appear in the TimelineJS Website

Challenges

- **Technical**

- Internet & electricity issues (Lebanon)
 - Temporary website issues
 - Media needs to be online
 - URLs sometimes got cut
 - Adding a bibliography at the end of the paper
- Finding **appropriate multimedia resources**: (Librarian could help)
 - Writing texts in **Google Sheets**
 - Collaborative work during **social distancing**



FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS

- **Positive** feedback from students who enjoyed collaborative work from end of semester surveys
- **Tweets** by students **proud** of their final projects
- Students could **"repurpose"** the use of the platform:
 - CVs
 - E-Portfolios
 - Presentations and assignments for other courses
- Students **"felt confident"** to include their projects in their CVs
- **"Showcased digital skills"** to potential employers improved employment prospects"
- Assignments **"lived"** outside the four walls of the classroom

More Digital Timeline OPTIONS

- [Tiki Toki](#)
- [Odyssey.js](#)
- [Omeka](#)
- [Simile](#)
- [Historypin](#)



Optional assignment for the next workshop

For our follow up workshop on Thursday 27th October:

- Create a *TimelineJS* project with 5 different events to share with us

Think of a course that you might want to use the tool in

- Think of an assignment that you might want to create using *TimelineJS*
- Which 1 or 2 LOs do you think the assignment will target in your course?
- Write a quick draft of the assignment instructions

Optional assignment for the next workshop

- Will it be a collaborative or individual assignment?
- Where in the syllabus does it make sense to add the introductory and hands on training on TimelineJS for your students?
- Do you have a digital librarian who can support you and your students?
- Are you as a librarian interested in reaching out to faculty to offer support?
- Will you be making available the digital objects for students' use?
- What weight of grades do you think you might give it?
- How would you like to grade the assignment? draft some rubric items that make sense for you

RESOURCES

- McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Educational and Classroom technologies, Princeton University [March 20, 2022] from <https://mcgrawect.princeton.edu/assignment/make-a-timeline/>
- Picard, D., & Bruff, D. (2016). Digital Timelines. Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching. Retrieved [March 20, 2022] from <https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/digital-timelines/>
- TimelineJS [March 22, 2022] from <https://timeline.knightlab.com/>





Q&A



THANKS!

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