**Choosing a Timeline Creator**

This document provides tips for choosing a timeline for digital humanities projects. These timelines are recommended for storytelling (not for project management or task visualization).

1. Select a timeline that works best for the Professor, assignment, and/or learning outcomes.

* Is the timeline for a library or course assignment? Does the Professor have preferences and expectations? Collaborate to make sure the tool offers what’s needed.
* Will students be working on timelines in teams? If so, select a tool for multiple editors or assign roles.
* How will timelines be shared? Will timelines need to be embedded in a website or elsewhere? If so, select a tool that provides embed code.
* What digital literacy skills does the tool support? For example, collaborative digital projects, writing content for the web, using shared documents such as GoogleSheets, working with new graphical interfaces, accessibility and media captioning, writing for the web, etc.
* What information literacy skills does the tool support? For example, source attribution, use of varied information types (e.g., image, video, text), various labels (metadata creation), body text that allows for reflection or evaluation, etc.

1. Browse available timeline creators (Google “Timeline” and “LibGuide” for more). There are many open source tools that allow users to create and share timelines for free.

* [Knightlab’s TimelineJS](http://timeline.knightlab.com/):
  + Pros:
    - Straightforward: Provides [four simple steps](http://timeline.knightlab.com/) for creating a timeline, a [2-minute video tutorial](https://vimeo.com/143407878), and examples.
    - Unlimited Use: No limit on number of images used or timelines created;
    - Easy Embedding: Generates embed code for you.
    - Open Source.
  + Cons:
    - GoogleSheets: All content is entered and displayed separately.
* [TimeMapper](http://timemapper.okfnlabs.org/)
  + Very similar to TimelineJS.
* [Tiki-Toki](https://www.tiki-toki.com/):
  + Pros:
    - Visual Appeal: Incorporate background images and colors; sleek.
    - Integrated: All content is entered and viewed through one interface.
  + Cons:
    - Somewhat Straightforward: Interface requires some practice.
    - Not Open Source. No embed code available, limit usage.

Further Resources: Danielle, P. (n.d.). *Digital Timeline Guide.* Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching. <https://cft.vanderbilt.edu/guides-sub-pages/digital-timelines/>