About Digital Bridges

The Columbia Center for New Media Teaching and Learning's Digital Bridges initiative works in partnership with Columbia faculty and librarians to bring students into exemplary engagements with digitized collections. Digital Bridges Web-based learning environments promote active, hands-on use of materials from Columbia University Libraries collections, audio and video resources, digital libraries and databases, public educational resources, and faculty- and student-generated content.

Digitized academic resources—including documents, images, videos, maps, data sets, and more—are now available at an unprecedented level from Columbia's libraries as well as a myriad of sources online. This presents important new opportunities to create learning environments in which students interrogate curated source material with interactive technologies.

By supporting educational projects that draw from and contribute to curated, managed, and persistent multimedia collections, Digital Bridges enriches education in a digital world. Such projects connect students directly to authoritative material, leveraging technology to explore new forms of editing, annotating, and collaboration within scholarly contexts.

Characteristics of Digital Bridges Projects

Despite their differing approaches and subject areas, Digital Bridges projects typically satisfy a common set of criteria. These include:

- Class study is organized around a communally accessible collection of digitized source materials

- Assignments drive students to apply thematics of the class to this collection

- Student work imprints itself on this collection through activities such as recontextualization, annotation, selection, and contribution

- Strong student work is saved to the collection for the benefit of future students and/or the public

- The project has a persistent identity and is engaged by students across semesters (and perhaps also institutions)

- The project interacts with the open Web through a public-facing representation of its activities and sharable resources
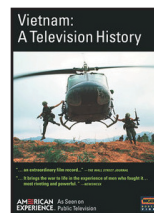
Example Projects

Engaging Digital Tibet

Engaging Digital Tibet creates innovative ways for students to study material culture and participate directly in historical scholarship. Students annotate digitized objects to examine intersections of trade, craftsmanship, art, religion, and politics in modern Tibet.

The Vietnam Digital Library

The Vietnam Digital Library provides students at Columbia unique access to hundreds of hours of interviews and stock footage from the landmark 1983 miniseries, *Vietnam: A Television History*. CCNMTL's customized tools are integrating this newly digitized media into educational activities in History, Journalism, and Teachers College classrooms.

Sacred Gotham

Sacred Gotham allows students to collaboratively examine religious activities and their relationships to place. Using map overlays and visualized data drawn from census, land-use, and other government statistics, students can compare religious activities in various locations, identifying connections and trends across sites.

Faculty Partners

"Digital Bridges allows us to utilize primary source materials at Columbia, such as correspondence, original manuscripts, excerpts from oral history interviews, and photographs to bring Harlem's heritage to life."
- *Manning Marable, Professor of Public Affairs, Political Science, and History at Columbia University*

"CCNMTL's Digital Bridges has helped me to organize my work in a manner that creates innovative curricular opportunities—effectively bringing undergraduates closer to the lives of those less fortunate in the city—and opens up new research doors. I'm sure to repeat this venture in the future."
- *Sudhir Venkatesh, Professor of Sociology at Columbia University*

*For more information about Digital Bridges or CCNMTL, please visit http://ccnmtl.columbia.edu/digitalbridges or call us at 212-854-9058