human-computer collaboration

mauricio giraldo arteaga @mgiraldo @nypl_labs

IPAM Culture Analytics and User Experience Design, April 2016

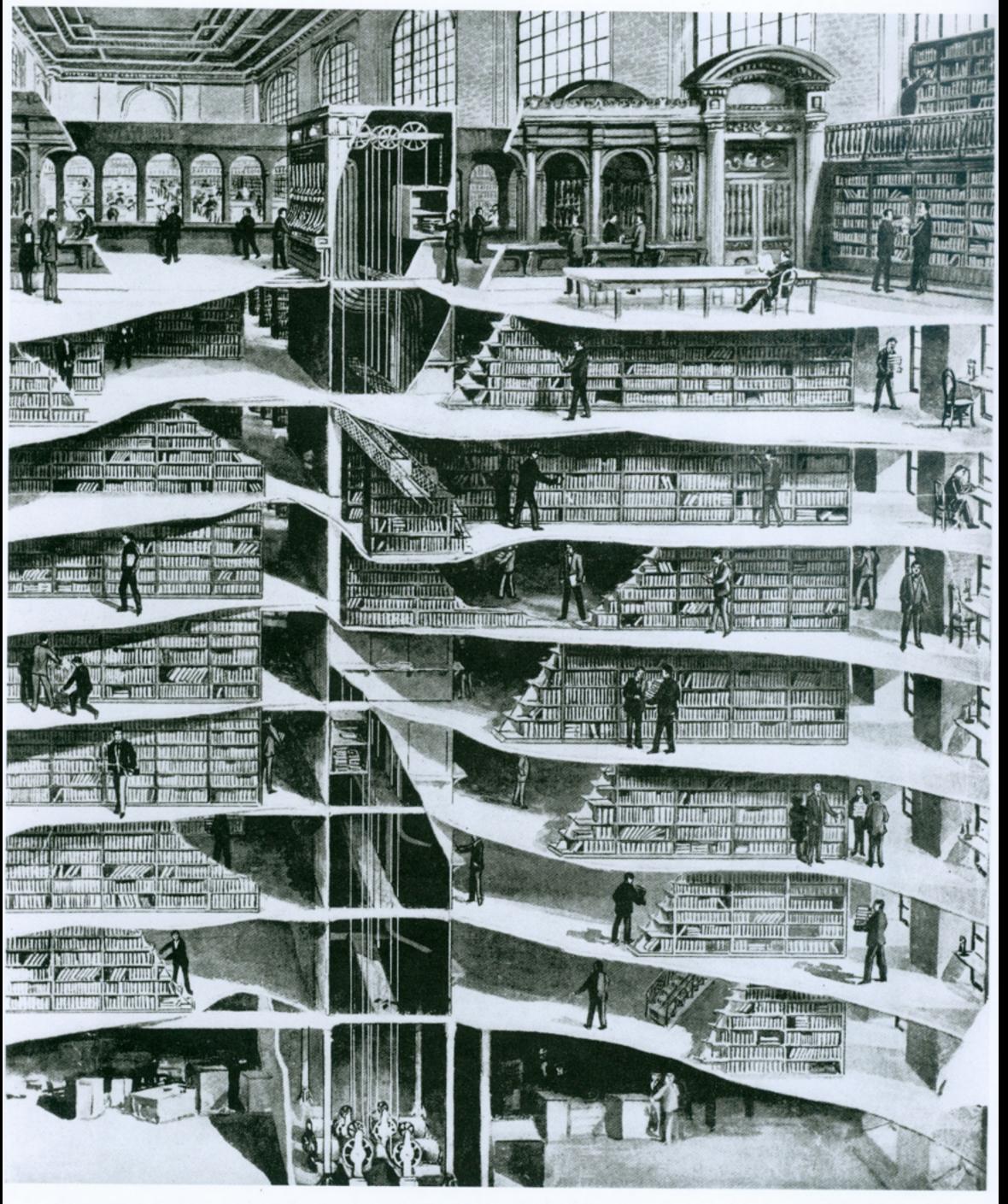
hello



not a real library scientist







DRAWING OF THE LIBRARY STACKS



NYPL Labs

digitization

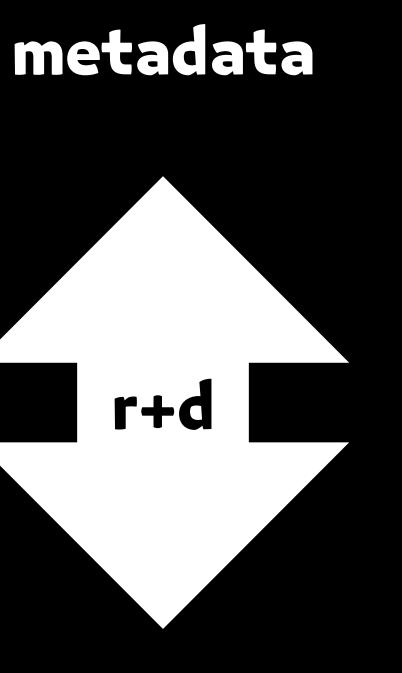
traditional digital library program

metadata



public

digitization



public engagement





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Did you know that more than 180,000 of the items in our Digital Collections are in the public domain?

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ASK&NYPL >

Chat with a librarian now

FROM OUR BLOGS

Podcast #105: Nathaniel Kahn on Outer Space, Weird Science, and Film

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RECENTLY DIGITIZED ITEMS SEE MORE



DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

C

Explore 679,265 items digitized from The New York Public Library's collections.

This site is a living database with new materials added every day, featuring prints, photographs, maps, manuscripts, streaming video, and more.

Q

Search keyword(s)

Featured Collections:

- Jerome Robbins Dance Division Moving Image Archive
- American Jewish Committee Oral History Collection

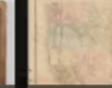
Featured: Messenger boy , Street views of New York City.

THE ---- B --- - PP--The best by test

book

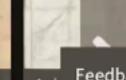






Pots, pans and pie-plates and how to

Map of the United States and



A ch Feedback man

∆ Ø 0 +

(

Browse 🔻

what happens after digitization?

human-computer collaboration



 $\langle \cdot \rangle$

?

corollary of "perfect is the enemy of good"

embrace imperfection

because it is not achievable

« A designer's definition of 'perfect' is different for computational designers. »

John Maeda

human-computer collaboration

computers are good at some things...

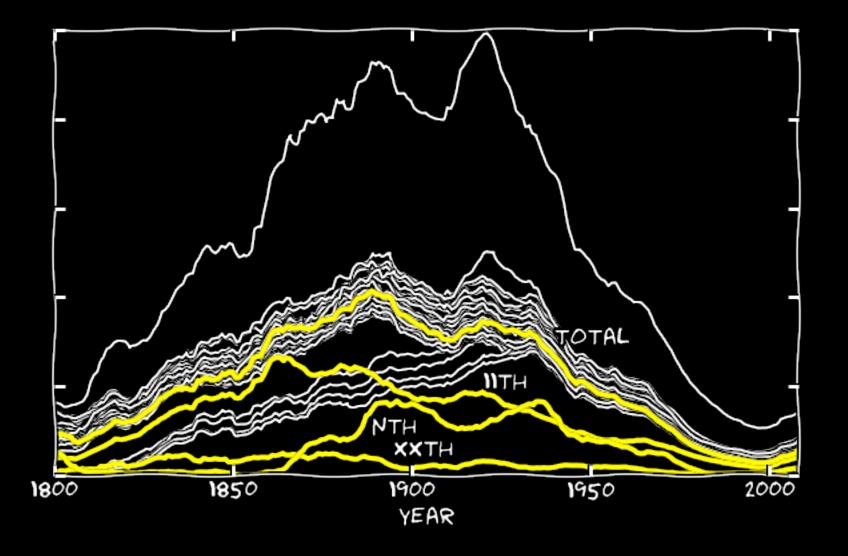


JANUARY 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5
15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19
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29 30	27
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15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12
22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19
29 30 31	26
1 2 3 4 5 6	NH
7 8 9 10 11 12 13	11
14 15 16 17 18 19 20	18
21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18
28 29 30 31	25

CALENDAR OF MEANINGFUL DATES

EACH DATE'S SIZE REPRESENTS HOW OFTEN IT IS REFERRED TO BY NAME (E.G. "OCTOBER 1714") IN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE BOOKS SINCE 2000 (SOURCE: GOOGLE NGRAMS CORPUS)





David Hagen - drhagen.com/blog/the-missing-11th-of-the-month

people overestimate OCR quality

Jan 17 1900 Gerard Hotel Luncheog Cham Broth --- 20-30 Creamor Ossters _ 20-80 Beer Tea _ _ 20-30 Manced Habibot au Gratin en Crequette --- 30-57 Beef Steak Pie Famils Strbe ---- 36-00 Cobs Bast Beet - _ - 80-50 Cobs Canada Multon 35-00 Navel Corned Beer 80-60 Marked Sabas ---- 25 Stoced Tomatoes -- 25 bima Beans - - -- - 15 Touttered Beets -- - 86' Bakes Btatoes Currant 18078, ---- 10 Bakes apples Cream. 25 trobasses Cake - - - 96 Preserves apricots -- 25 Baked. Lemon Bieroit Posting 15 Grape Fruit -- -- 25 Macaroonis - - - - - 15 Oranges - - - - - 25 Pouns Cake ---- 15 Banana 8 Citnon Cake ---- 15 French Vamilla ice Gream 25 Raisin Cake ---- 15 French Biscuit Tortoni - 25



OCR result

Q<_...,,, \» ," 4 ~ 5 r, muck, ` Q '<»_ 1 :Maw "ma vii"

okay... so maybe computers are not that good

people are good at other things

human-computer collaboration

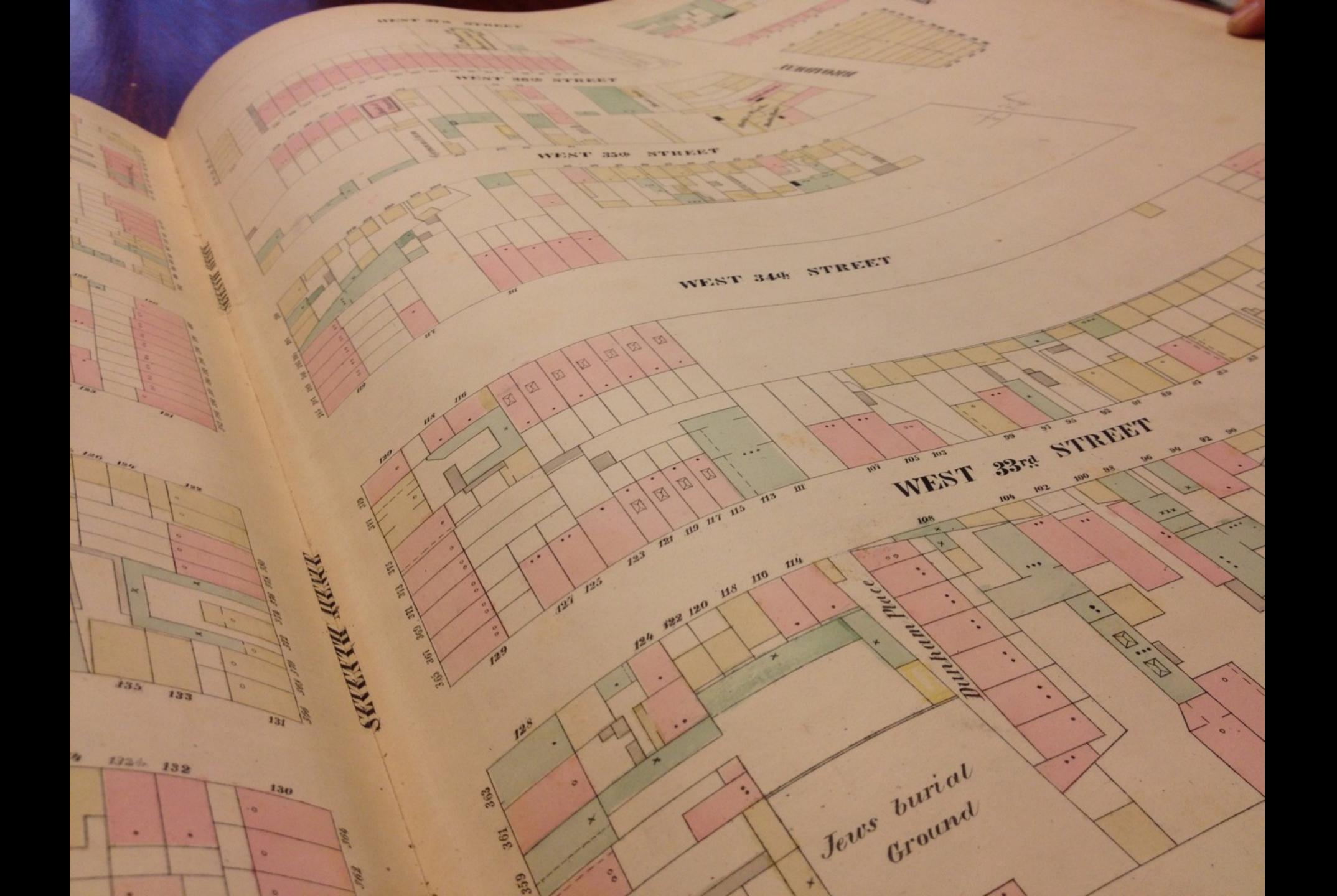
i avoid the term "crowdsourcing"











backyards

name

skylights

address

street names



year

footprint

floors

class

material

geo location

like Google Maps for the 19th century

but Google Maps cannot answer questions about the 19th century



THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

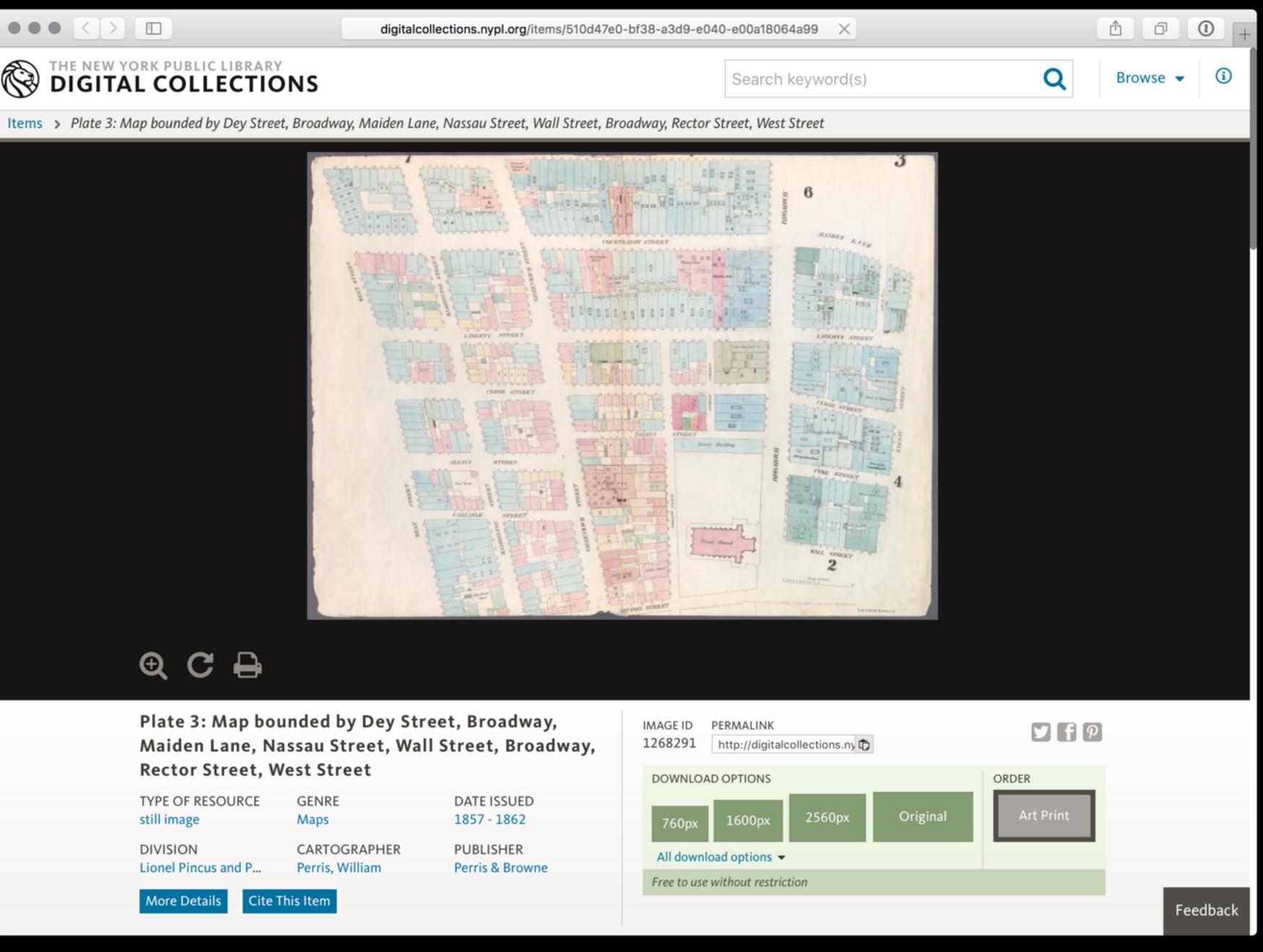




Plate 3: Map bounded by Dey Street, Broadway, Maiden Lane, Nassau Street, Wall Street, Broadway, **Rector Street, West Street**

Mara Dataila	Cite Thi	e Item
DIVISION Lionel Pincus and	P	CARTOGR Perris, Will
TYPE OF RESOUR still image	CE	GENRE Maps

More Details

Cite This Item



WOOSTER

RINGST

ONDS



R STREET

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SPEEVE ST



*this is a simulation. actual process is intensive. consult your mathematician before trying



THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

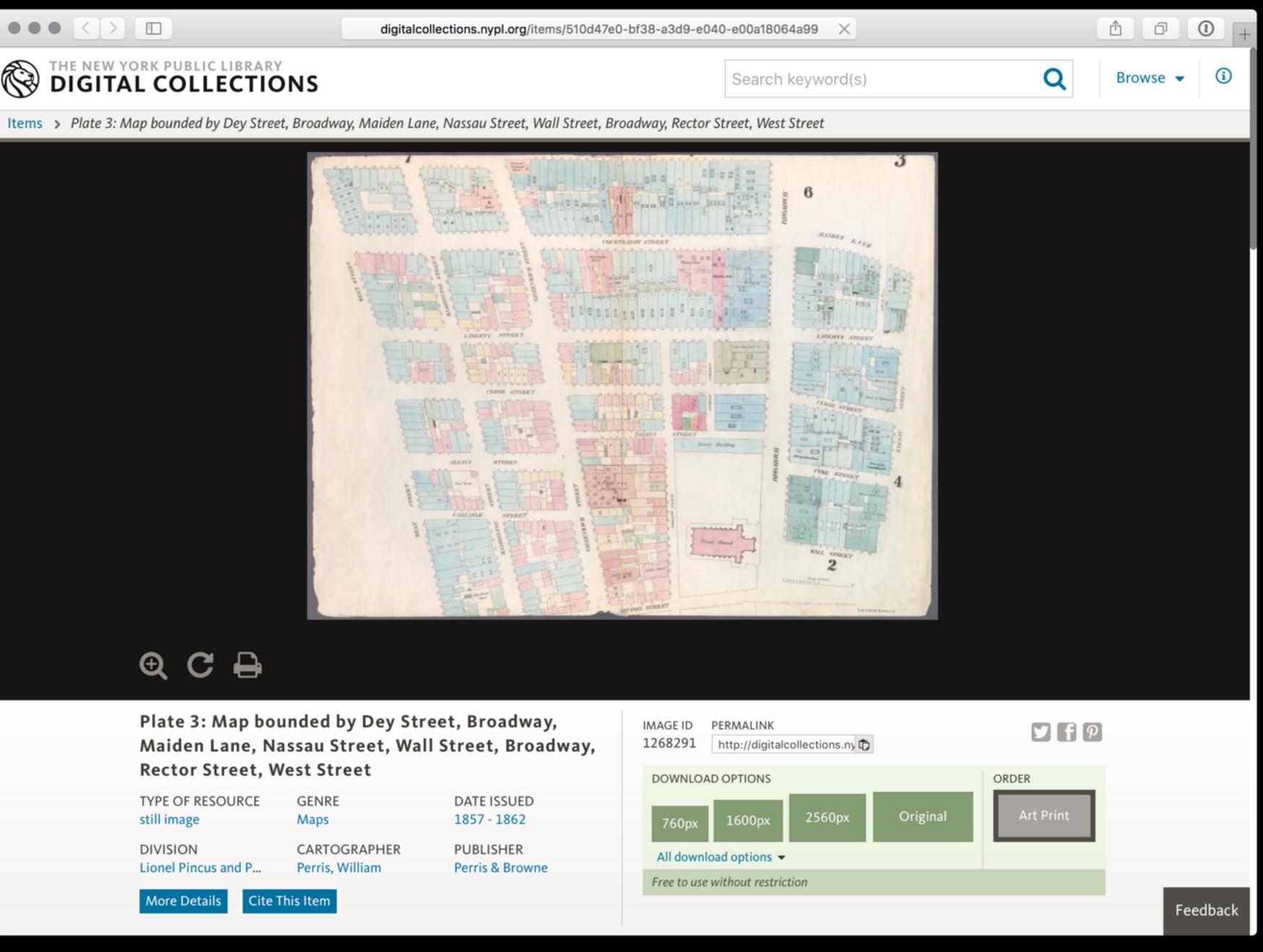




Plate 3: Map bounded by Dey Street, Broadway, Maiden Lane, Nassau Street, Wall Street, Broadway, **Rector Street, West Street**

Mara Dataila	Cite Thi	e Item
DIVISION Lionel Pincus and	P	CARTOGR Perris, Will
TYPE OF RESOUR still image	CE	GENRE Maps

More Details

Cite This Item



and now you start tracing those buildings by hand













1852-1854



can we automate this?

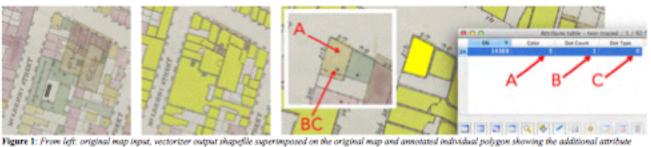
computers are good at some things...











data being extracted.

ABSTRACT

Polygon and attribute data extraction from historical maps such as US insurance atlases from the 19th and early 20th centuries has so far been a manual task. The New York Public Library (NYPL) currently relies on staff and volunteer work to manually extract polygons and other attribute data from its collection to create new public data sets for the study of urban history. This is a timeintensive task requiring up to several minutes to trace a shapefile and transcribe attributes for a single building. In this paper we propose an approach to automatically extract such attribute data from historical maps. The approach makes use of multiple image processing and statistics utilities to produce desirable results in a fraction of the time required to do by hand.

On average, a shapefile for an atlas sheet is generated in ~11.4 minutes for a total of 23.5 hours of processing time for a whole atlas that contains ~55,000 polygons; contrast this time frame to NYPL's current manual process that has taken three years to extract about 170,000 polygons across four New York City street atlases.

Even with some error rate in the proposed approach, the most cumbersome, time-intensive work (manual polygon drawing) has been reduced to a fraction of its original scope. This new workflow has promising implications for historical GIS.

Categories and Subject Descriptors 1.3.5 [Computer Graphics]: Computational Geometry and Object

Modeling - Boundary representations.

Keywords: map image tracing, attribute data extraction, alpha shaper

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http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/2534931.2534932

Historical map polygon and feature extractor

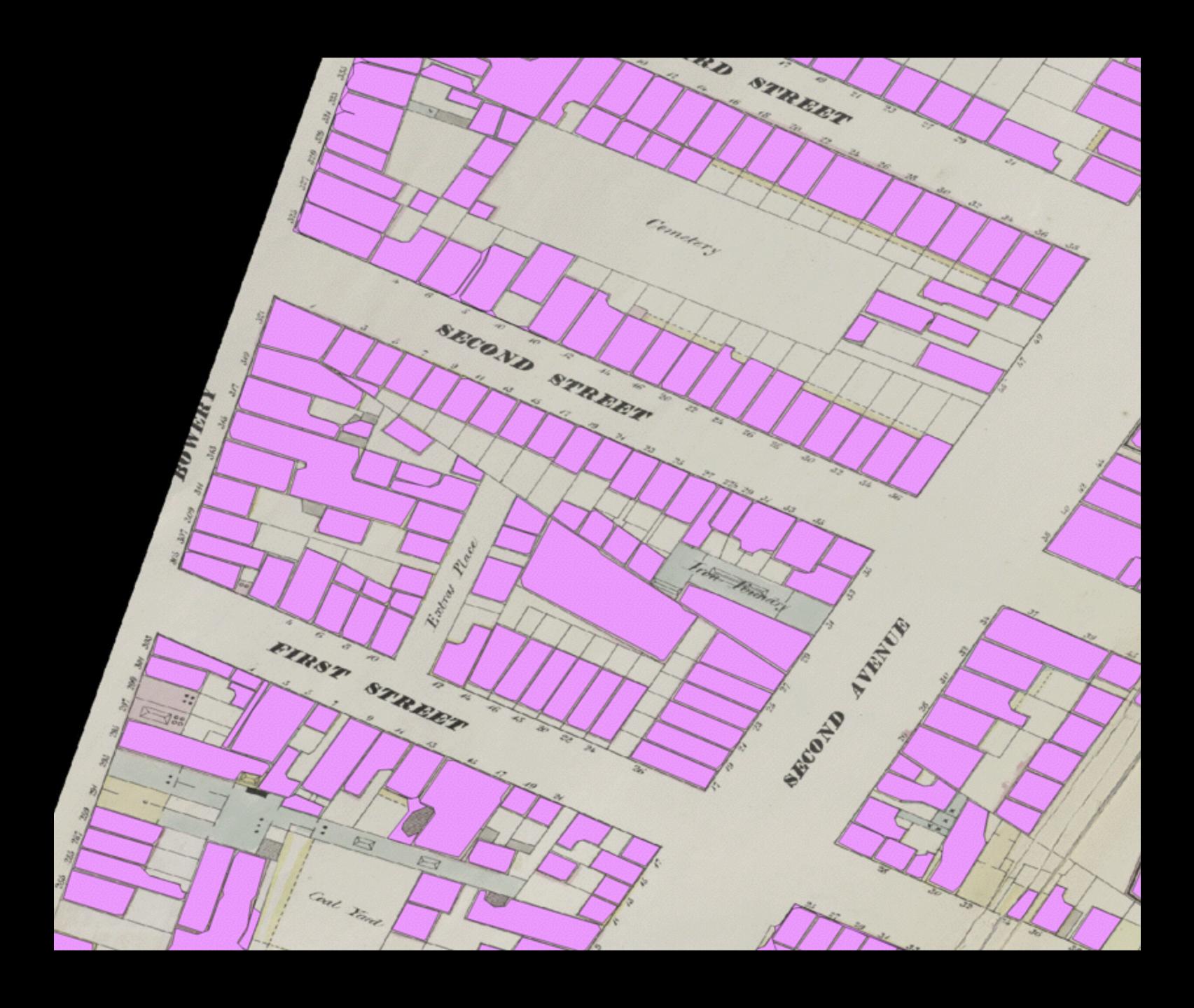
Mauricio Giraldo Arteaga New York Public Library Labs mauriciogiraldo@nypl.org

1. INTRODUCTION

Vector polygon and attribute data extraction from raster images of historical maps (e.g. in GeoTIFF file format) such as US insurance atlases from the 19th and early 20th centuries has so far been a manual task. Although there exist tools that produce vectors from raster images (e.g. GDAL Polygonize [GDAL 2013]), these require either very clean and simple polygons or human intervention to assist the polygonization algorithm (e.g. clicking specific areas of an image, inputting numerous parameters, manual tracing of the image and other nonautomatable processes). Historical maps such as those in the Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division of the New York Public Library (NYPL) do not conform to the ideal raster image expected by those tools. The collection includes tens of thousands of sheets from 1853 to 1930 organized in 200 atlases and manual tracing is a time-intensive task requiring up to several minutes to extract data for a single building footprint.

NYPL has relied on volunteer and staff work to extract about 170,000 polygons (Figure 2) and their respective attribute data (e.g. street number, color, dot presence and type) during the past three years using a custom-made open source browser tool [NYPL 2011]. This effort covers only three of the hundreds of atlases in the collection. At this pace, NYPL will be unable to extract the bulk of the data in any reasonable amount of time.

One of the main roadblocks to automation is the nature of the images: most are very old maps that might be damaged or discolored in some way and each institution has different criteria for preserving and scanning them.







60,000+ of those!

yay footprints!

like OCR for maps![™]

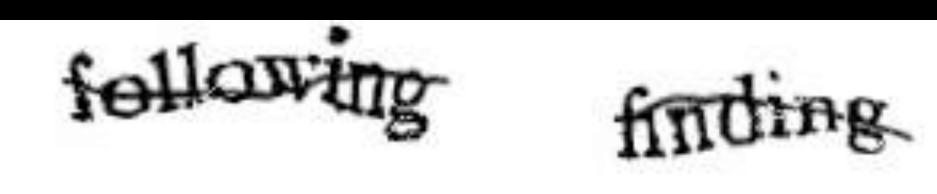
(not really trademarked)

but OCR is pretty bad



people are good at other things!





people don't choose to complete these

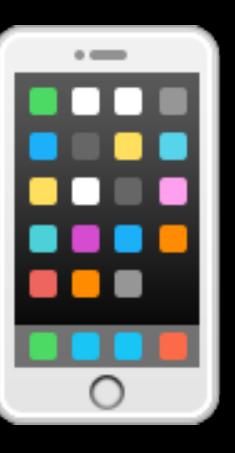
we have over 60,000 footprints to check!

will people want to do this?

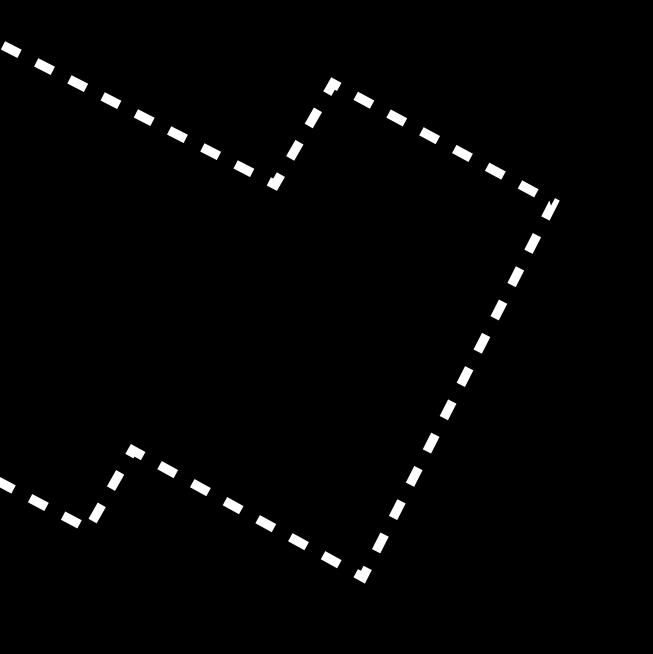
what is the minimum contribution we need?

we want the lowest friction possible so people will want to contribute

this was 2013, touch-screen mobile had taken off



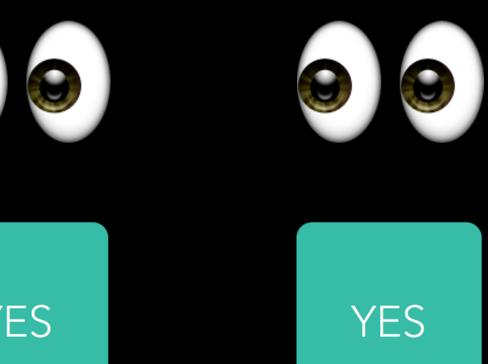






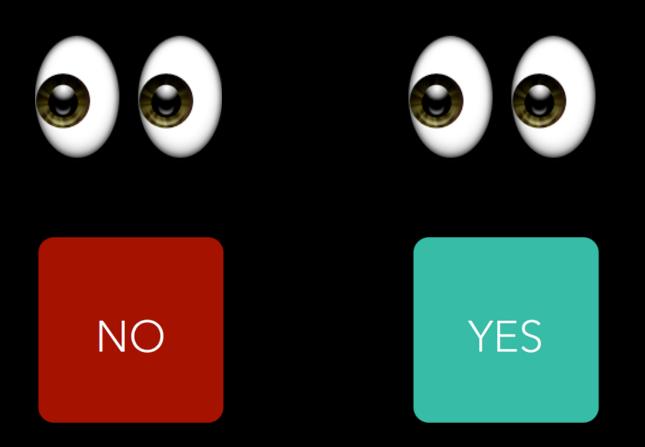
what about malicious users?

or even well-meaning ones who make mistakes





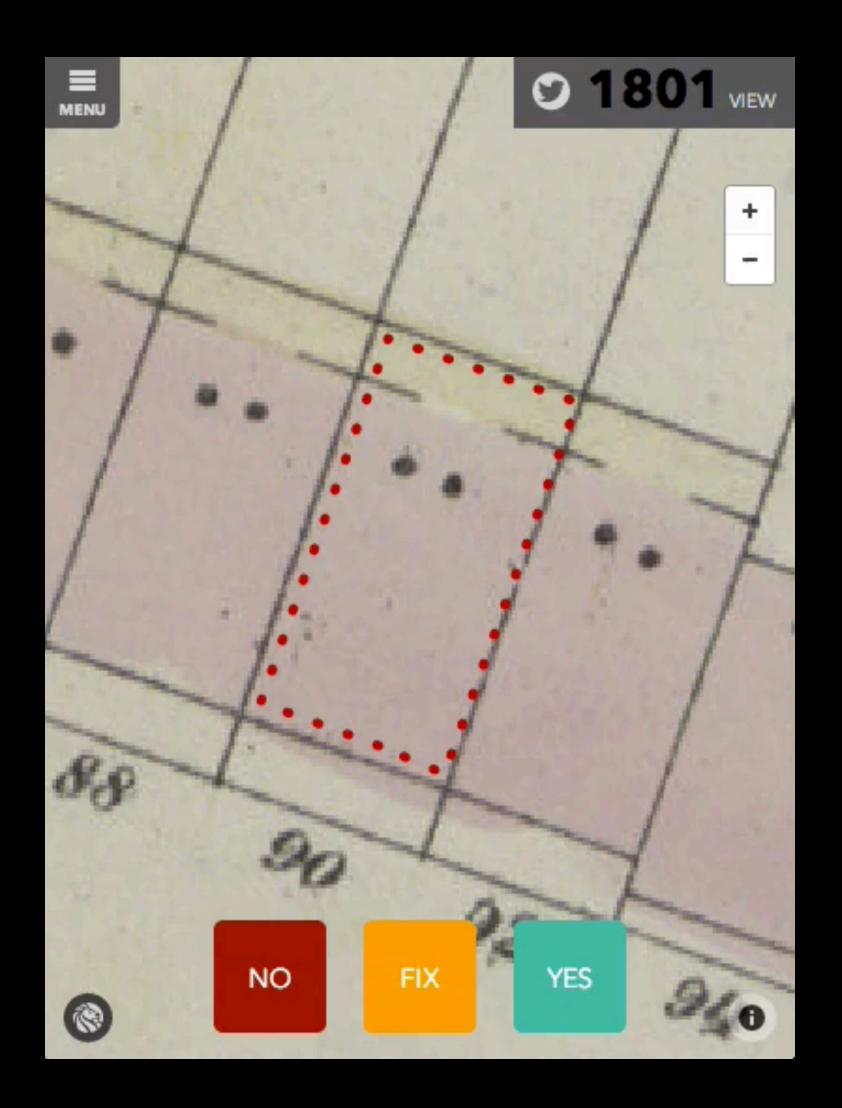




75% or more agreement between 3 or more people

arbitrary numbers that have worked for us





YES is on the right side because most people are right-handed and the algorithm is right most of the time

Building Inspector

buildinginspector.nypl.org

will people participate?

remember that little tweet button?



3499 buildings checked! Data mining old

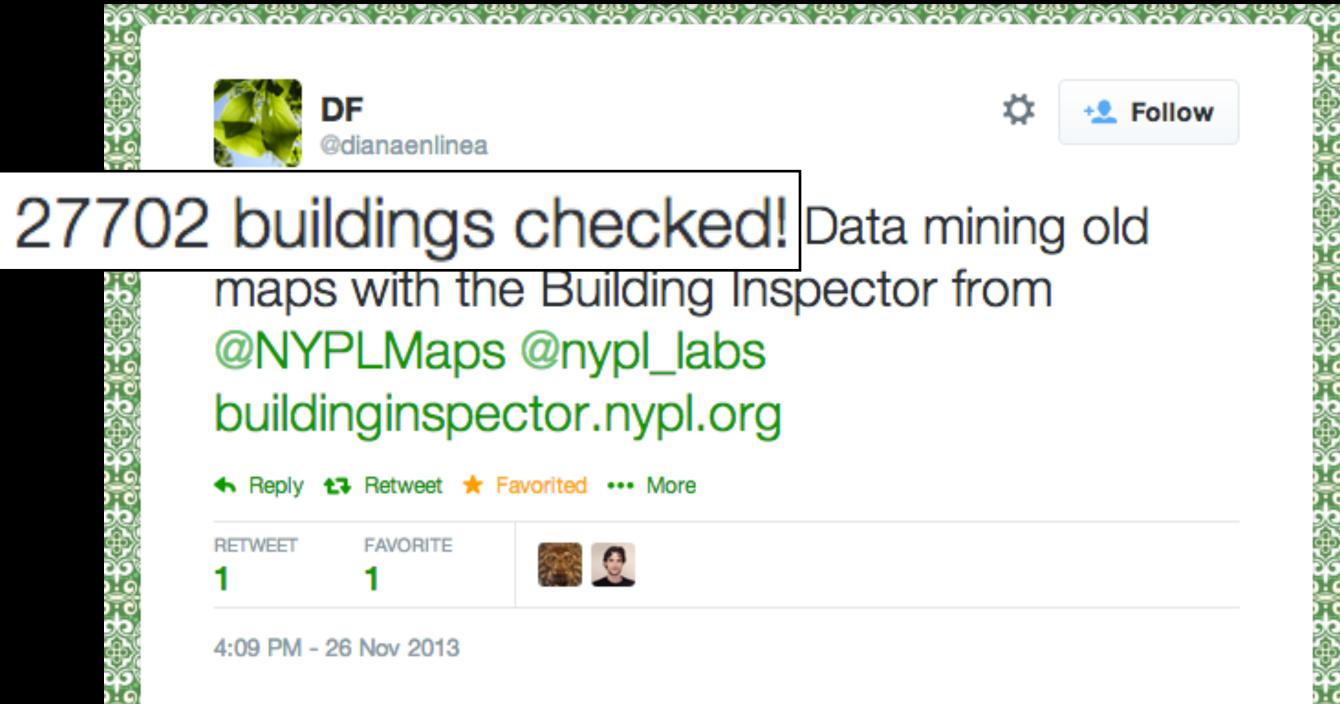
@NYPLMaps @nypl_labs

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FAVORITE RETWEETS 2 1



11:19 AM - 22 Oct 2013







Nicholas Arcolano @arcolano

the next Flappy Bird. @mgiraldo

A Reply 13 Retweet * Favorite ··· More



backyards

name

skylights

address

street names



year

footprint

floors

class

material

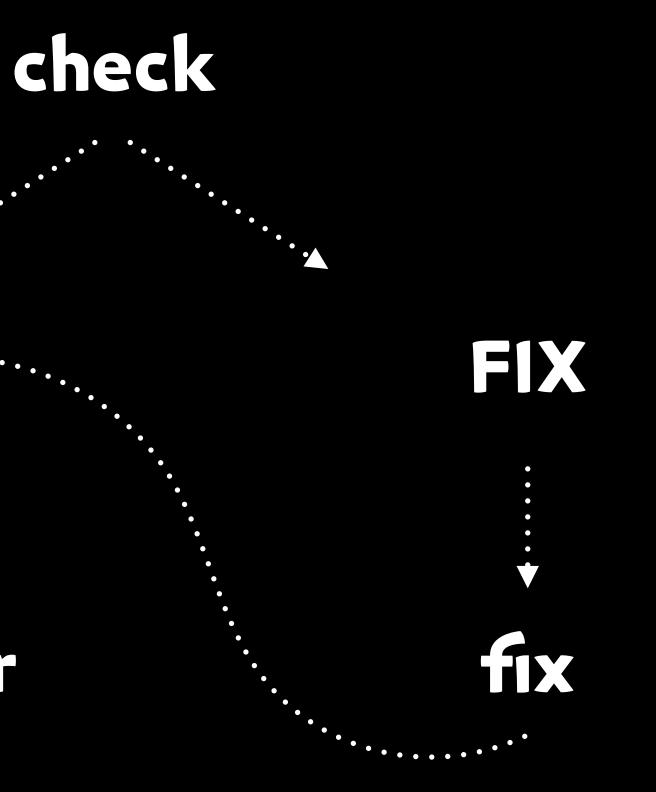
geo location



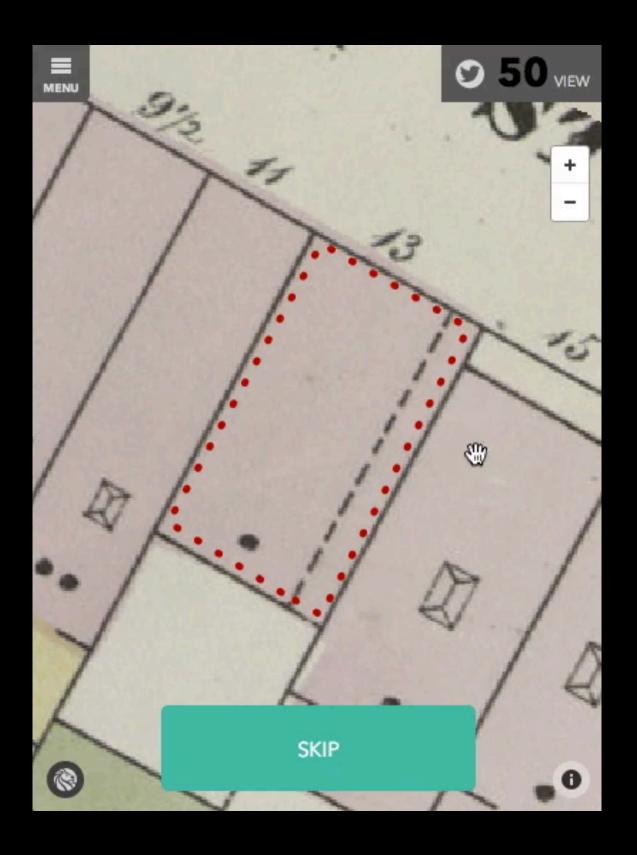


YES A

*footprints marked as "NO" go to polygon heaven

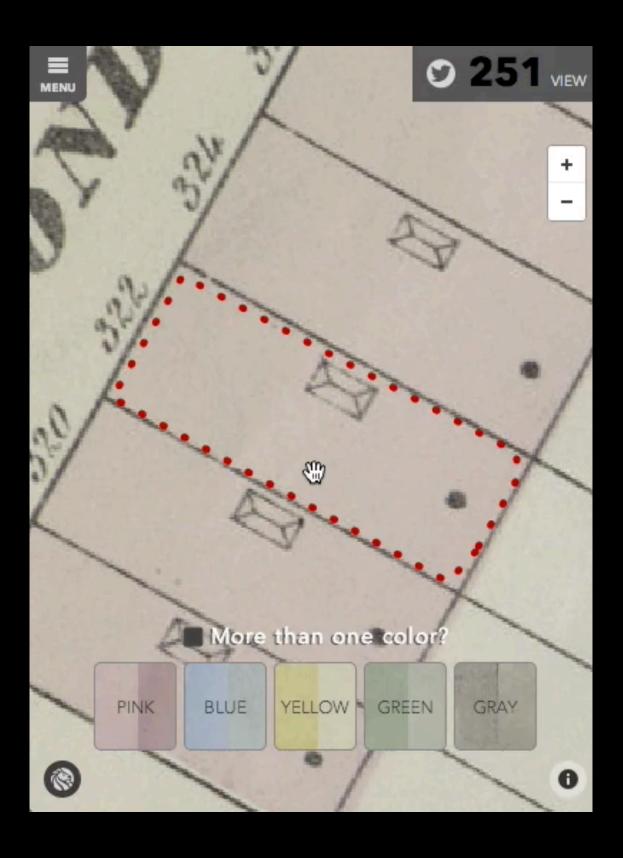




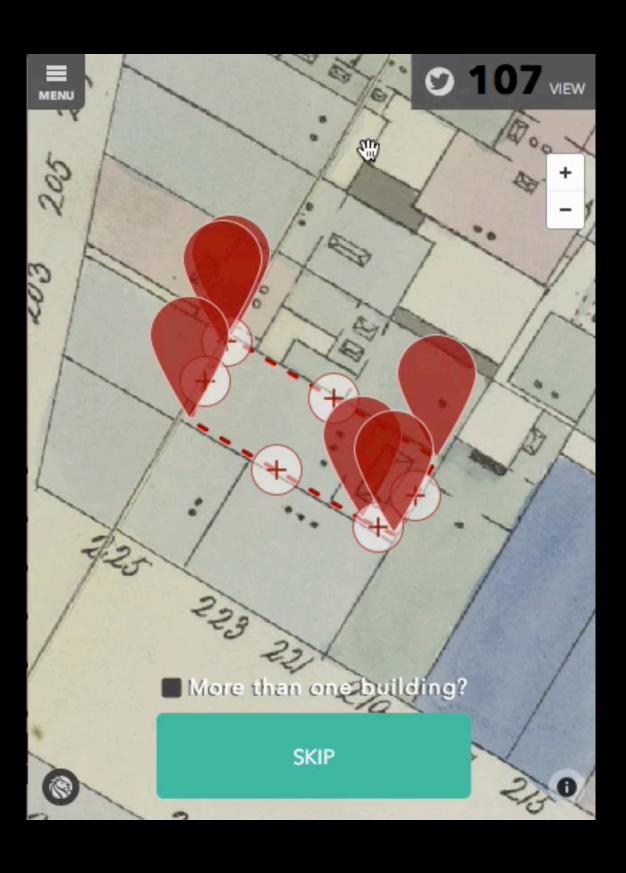


had to use full keyboard on mobile because fractions

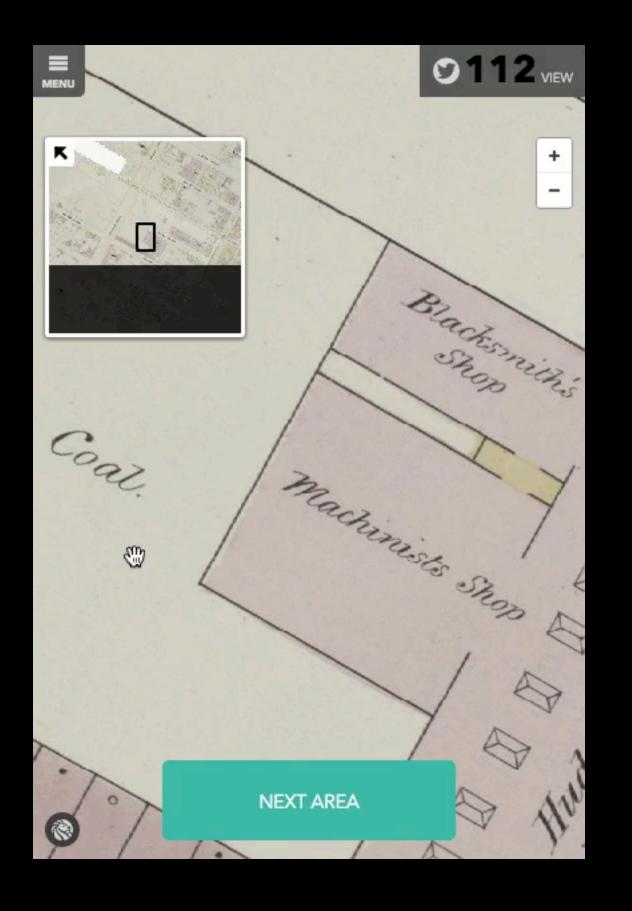
address



classify









place names



HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Library is training computers to recognize building shapes and other data on digitized insurance atlases. Via these easy, bite-sized tasks, you can help check the computers' work and capture other valuable information.

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The New York Public Library presents

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Kill Time. Make History.

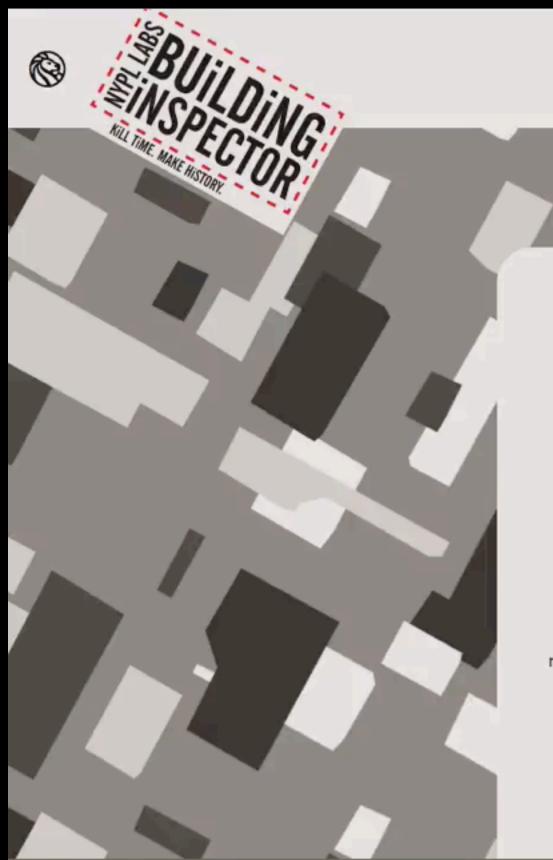
Welcome citizen cartographers! Help unlock New York City's past by identifying buildings and other details on beautiful old maps.

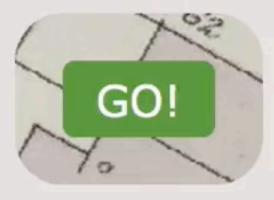
GET STARTED

we add new maps as old ones are completed

the bottleneck now became geo-rectifying those maps "_(arphi)_/"

this is actually version 2





Currently under inspection: Maps of the City of New York, 1857-62 by William Perris.

Privacy Policy Rules and Regulations Policy on Patron-Generated Web Content Terms and Conditions

A project of NYPL Labs and the Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division of The New York Public Library.



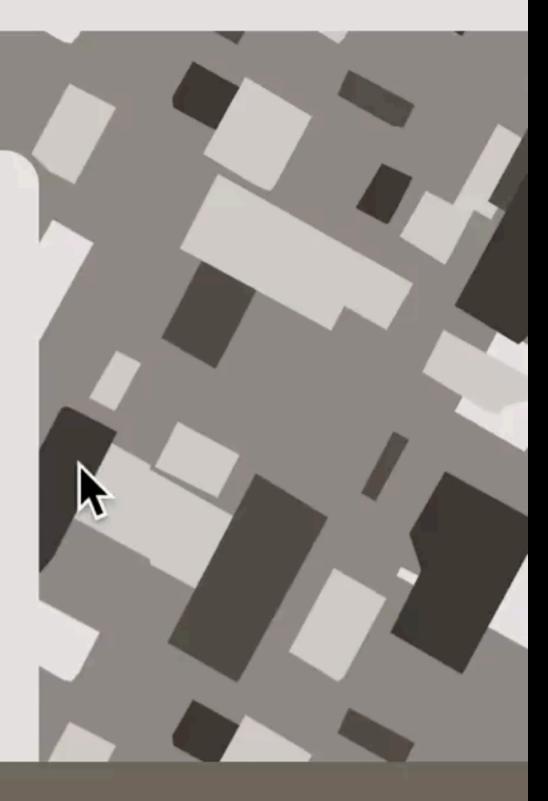
LOG IN @ HELP B ABOUT



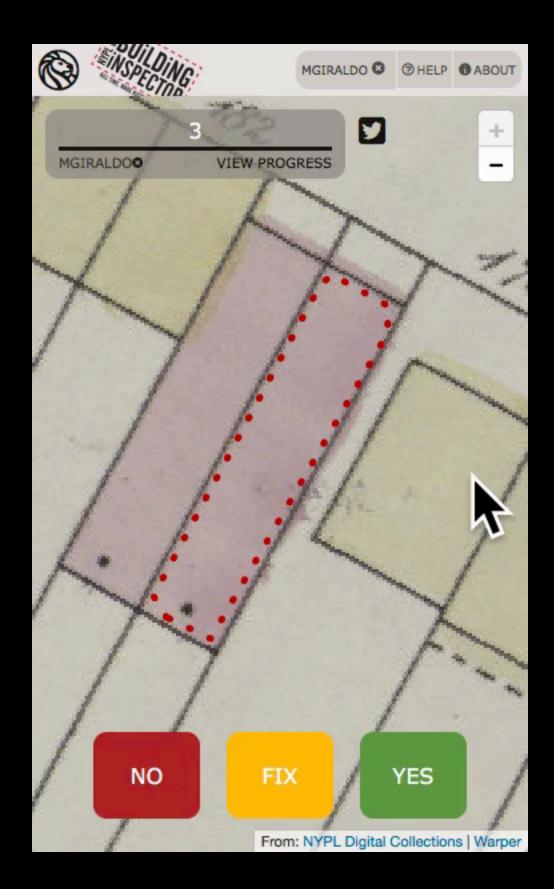
The New York Public Library is training computers how to recognize building shapes and other information from old city maps. Help us clean up the data so that it can be used in research, teaching and civic hacking.

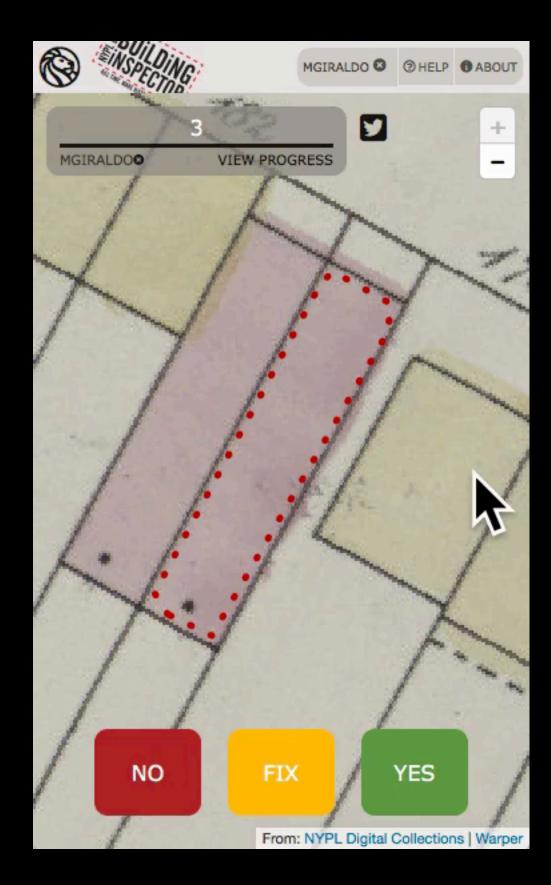


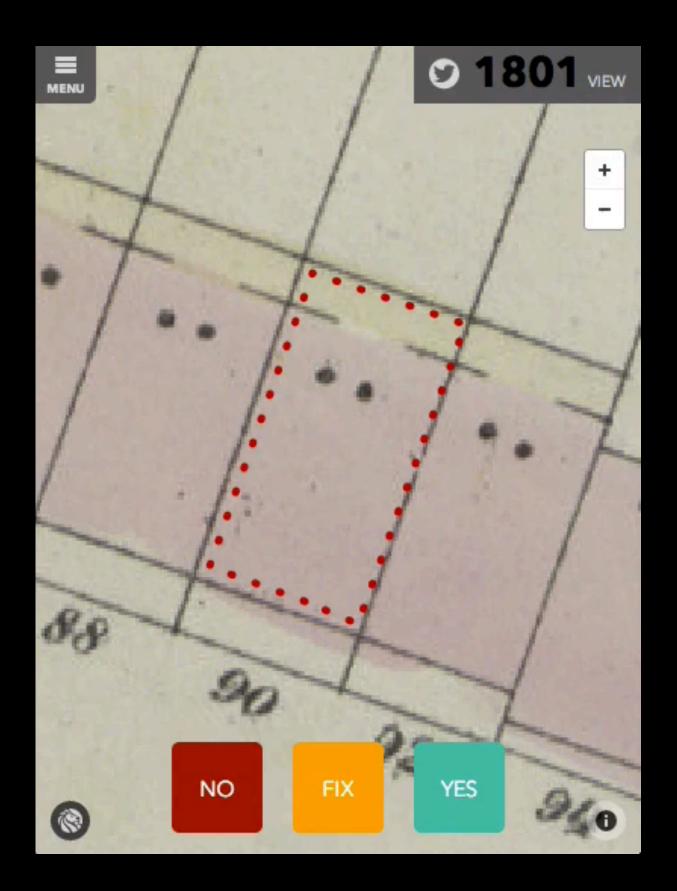
© 2013 NYPL

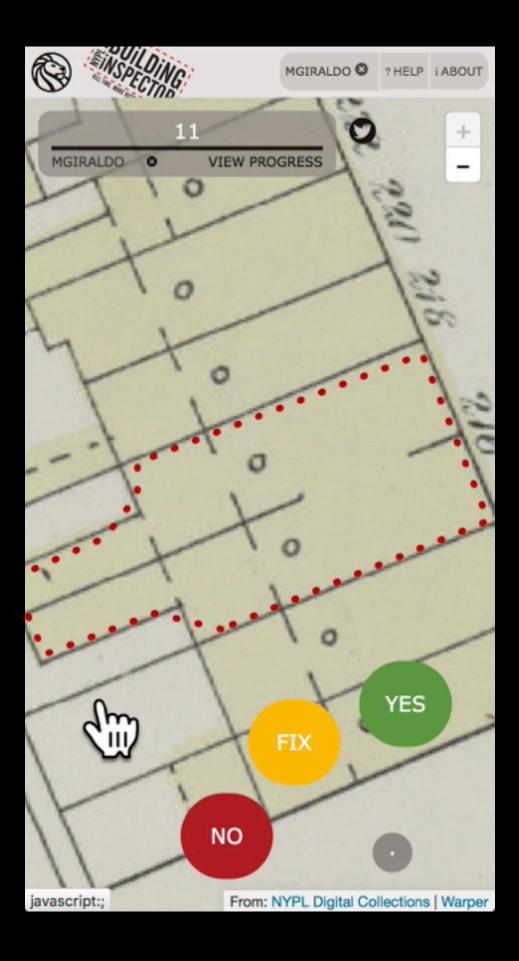


(the magic of git)

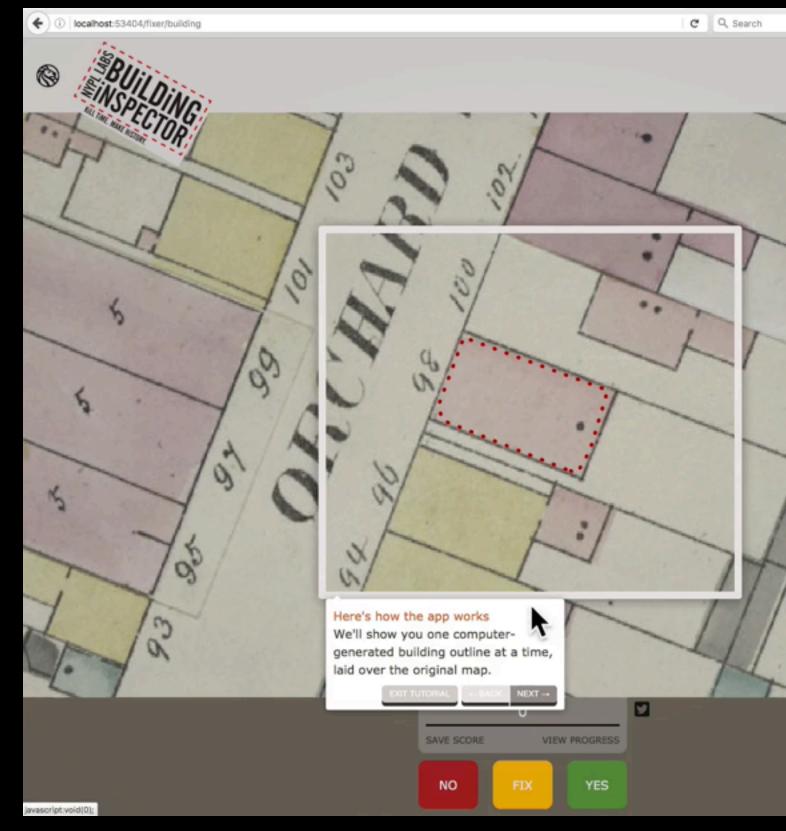




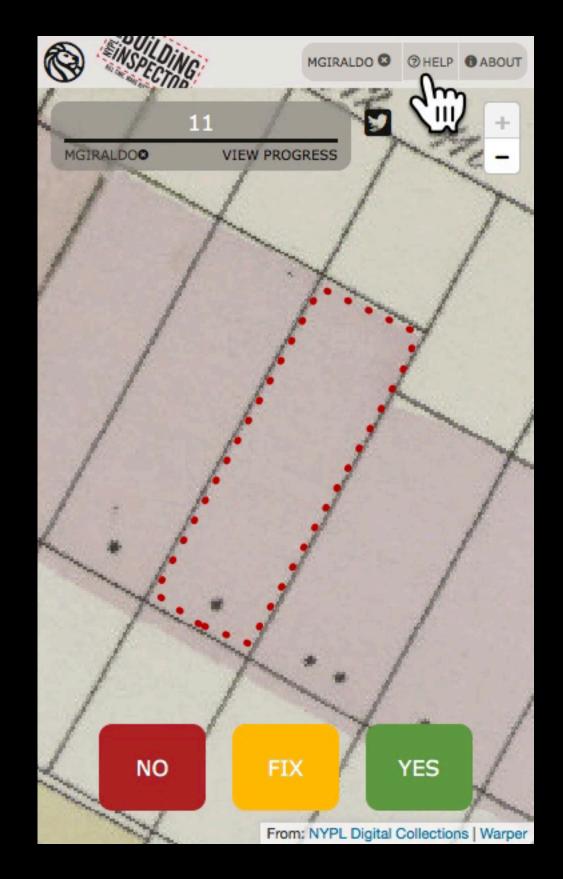




good tutorials are hard









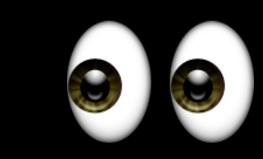
Super Mario Bros. (Nintendo, 1985)

or: how i learned to stop worrying and embrace imperfection

we have too many edge cases

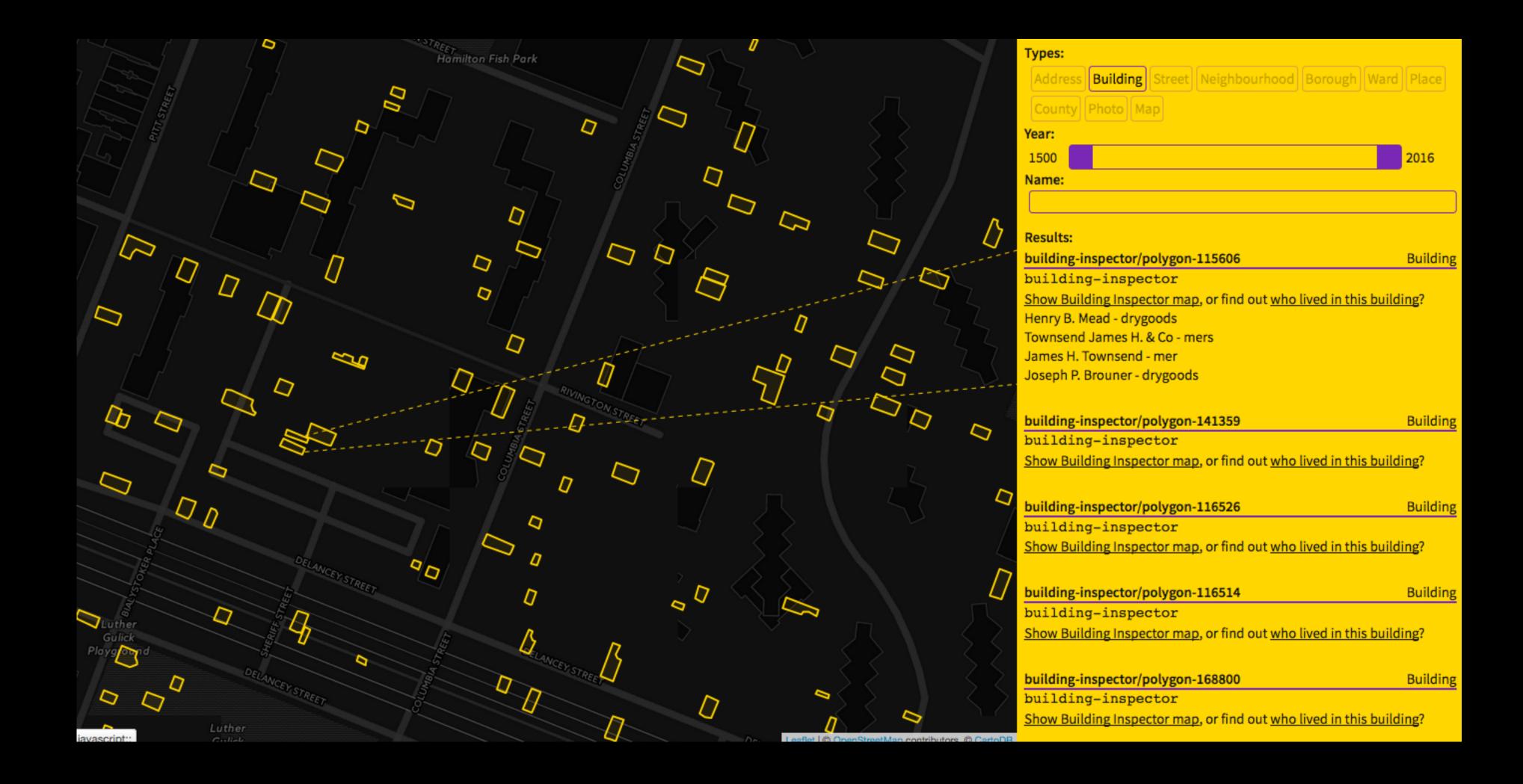
people skip them anyway











coming soon





The New York Public Library Community Oral History Project

Your Village, Your Story

Greenwich Village Oral History Project

People's History o Harlem

A Harlem Neighborhood Oral History Project

Bridging Our Stories

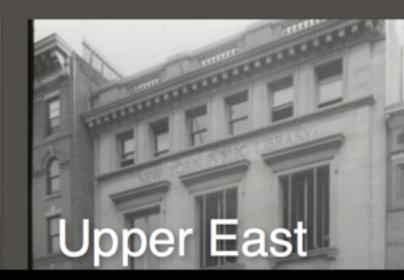
Washington Heights and Inwood Oral History Project

The New York

City Veterans

Stapleton Speaks

Our Neighborhood Oral History Project



LISTEN IMPROVE ABOUT

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Visible Lives

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Oral Histories of the Disability Experience

Voices from East of Bronx Park

An Oral History Project of the Allerton, Van Nest, Pelham Parkway and Morris Park Communities







NYPL Community Oral History Project

oralhistory.nypl.org



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The New York Public Library Community Oral History Project

Visible Lives

Oral Histories of the Disability Experience

Visible Lives: Oral Histories of the Disability Experience is an oral history project that works to both preserve and document a thematic history through personal recollections. This project will collect stories of people who are living with a disability and the Library will train community members to conduct these interviews. Interviews will be shared in a preservation archive at The Milstein Division and on the New York Public Library website. Public programs will also connect neighborhood residents and project participants.

Visible Lives is a project of Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library in Manhattan. A public archive will be kept at this local branch for future generations to listen to and research.

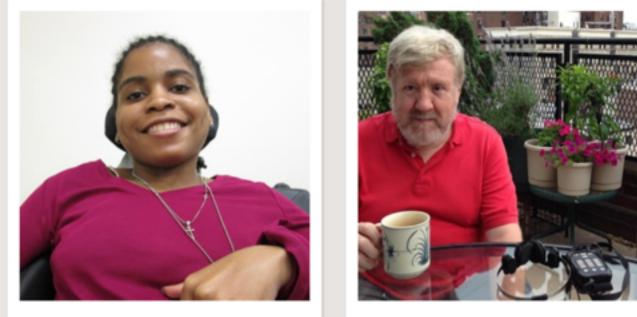
For more information about this project or to share YOUR story: Please contact Alexandra Kelly at Outreach Services and Adult Programming, AlexandraKelly@nypl.org or (212) 621-0552.

Visible Lives

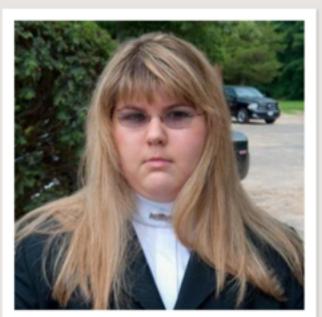
Search Keyword...



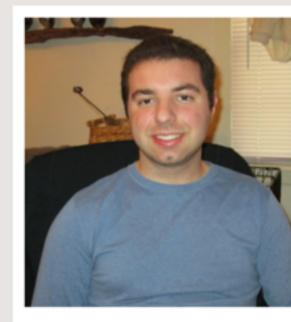
Adam Payne



Adrian



Alexandria Economou



Alex Catti



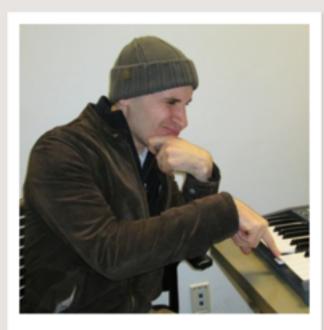


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LISTEN IMPROVE ABOUT

Adrian Spratt



Adrian Wagner

×



Alem Blount



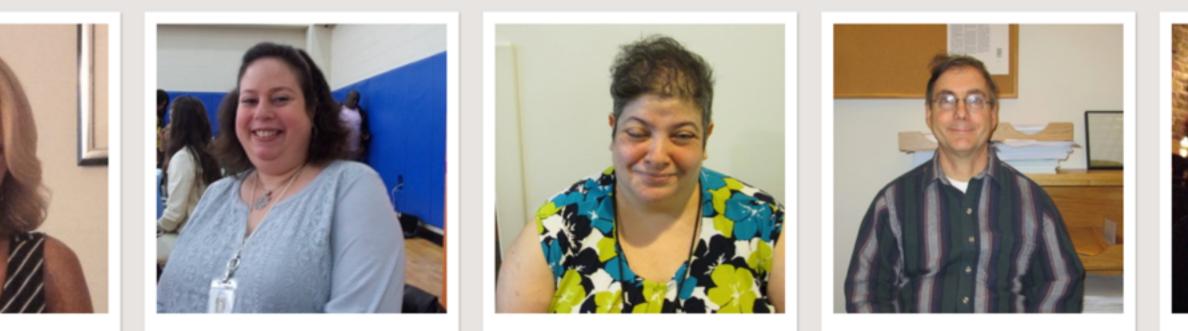
Alvaro Gutierrez



Alyson Bernhardt



Amanda Fitzpatrick







make these stories more accessible

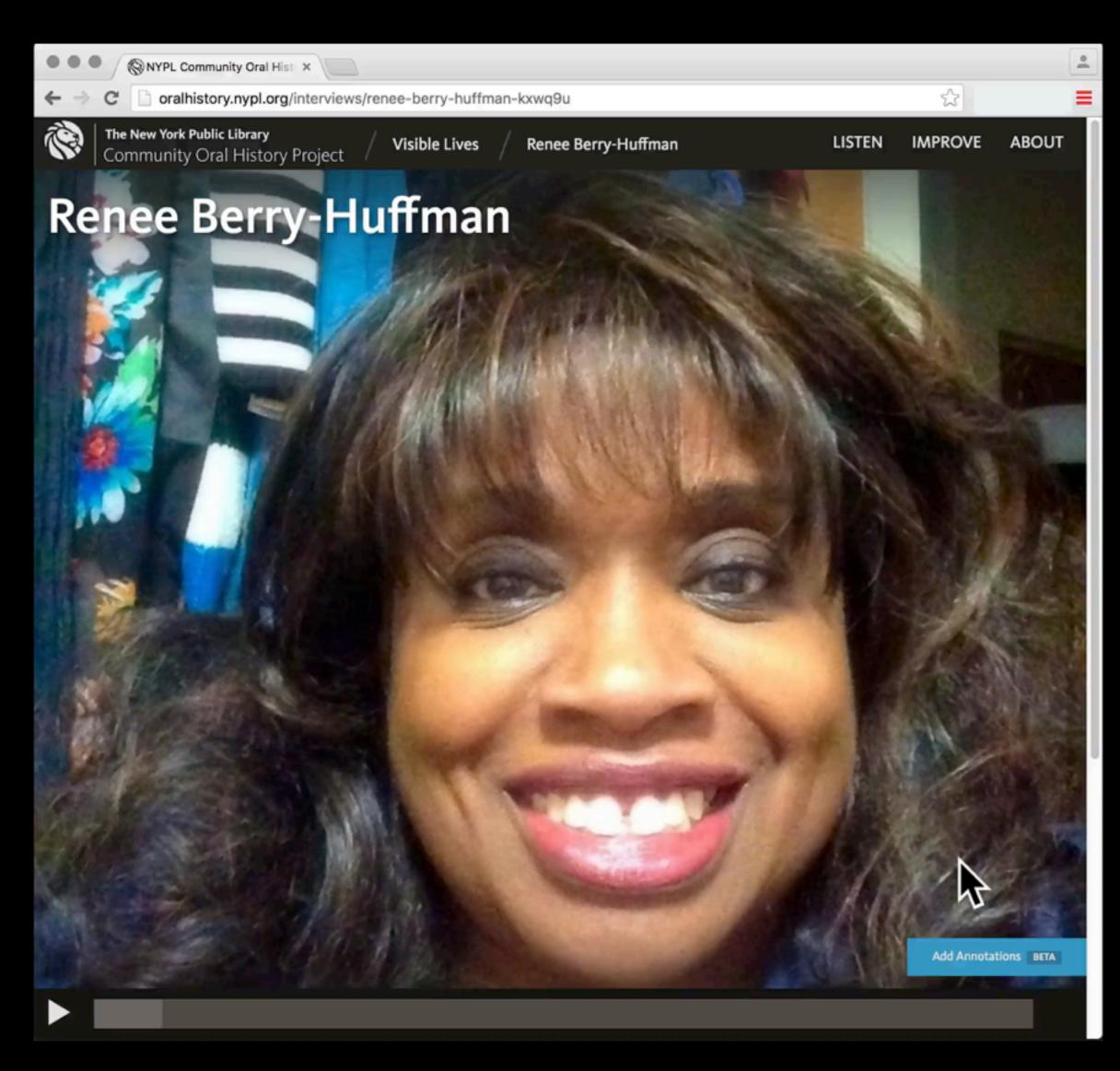




mark

- Ċ

transcribe



by brian foo @beefoo

allows for basic text search

but it's not a proper transcript



The New York Public Library Community Oral History Project

Visible Lives

Visible Lives

• • • < > | •

Oral Histories of the Disability Experience

Visible Lives: Oral Histories of the Disability Experience is an oral history project that works to both preserve and document a thematic history through personal recollections. This project will collect stories of people who are living with a disability and the Library will train community members to conduct these interviews. Interviews will be shared in a preservation archive at The Milstein Division and on the New York Public Library website. Public programs will also connect neighborhood residents and project participants.

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maine



Adrian Spratt Maine (37:33) Maine (37:40) Portland, Maine (37:42)

g/neighborhoods/visible-lives					10+
			LISTEN	IMPROVE	ABOUT
	<image/> <caption><text></text></caption>				

< Go Back To Interview Page

1:08:07 / 2:38:42

camp (19:43) care package (20:29) Larry Moskowitz (20:39) hght (21:21) parents (22:32) Catholic nursery school (22:51) sight conservation (24:31) classrooms (24:37) P.S. 6 (25:16) father (25:46)
West Indies (26:42) the South (26:45) family disabilities (26:48) graduation (27:50) 86th Street (27:53) P.S. 104 (28:08) Lavelle School for the Blind (28:28) playing (29:03) popularity (29:34)
blind community (29:45) Lavelle School for the Blind (30:12) nuns (30:15) teasing (31:25) childhood friends (32:46) school clothing (33:11) Lavelle School for the Blind (33:37) sports field (33:44)
221st Street Bronx (34:06) Lavelle School for the Blind (34:07) dating (34:48) wife (34:49) Lavelle School for the Blind (34:51) Music and Art High School (35:37) Tyrone Jackson (35:53) Mel Eisenbach (36:25)
Board of Education (36:26) Sister Mariana (37:18) graduation (37:50) professional singer (38:26) friends' deaths (38:42) car accident (38:52) best friend Tyrone (40:19) subway death (41:12)
Grand Central (41:20) Industrial Home for the Blind (41:32) Industrial Home for the Blind (41:35) New York University (NYU) (41:43) recreational therapy (41:46) mainstreaming (42:52) getting around (44:33)
New York City (44:35) subway (44:47) best friend Tyrone (45:03) cane (45:41) The Lighthouse (45:54) seeing-eye dog (46:07) Monty Ublansky (46:40) sense of smell (47:11) guide dog (48:35)
German Shepherd (49:22) Shepherd dogs (49:47) dog training (50:20) Central Park (51:42) Connecticut (51:54) Pound Ridge, NY (51:56) Tom Dunn (52:00) walking with guide dog (52:09) dog Q (53:11)
Access-A-Ride (54:01) New York University (NYU) (55:07) blind recreation space (56:01) 1980s (56:33) Barry Harris (56:40) Jazz Cultural Theater (57:00) 28th Street (57:02) 1983 (57:25)
Jewish Guild for the Blind (57:30) 1970s (57:39) 42nd Street and 5th Avenue (57:56) newsstand (58:13) working (58:31) Jazz Cultural Theater (59:46) 1986 (59:54) National Education Association (1:00:05)
father's heart attack (1:00:19) cancer (1:01:55) Joseph Love (1:02:17) mother (1:02:55) Spanish Harlem (1:03:43) stepfather (1:04:37) trust (1:05:20) iPhone (1:07:22) assistive technology (1:08:07)
iPhone (1:09:15) apps (1:09:43) Voiceover app (1:10:04) apps for blind people (1:10:36) Derek Jeter (1:11:17) reel-to-reel (1:11:29) technology (1:13:00) American Council of the Blind (1:13:16)
recording app (1:14:21) meeting wife (1:16:04) Lavelle School for the Blind (1:16:15) Millie (1:17:00) Pawling, NY (1:17:23) Marist College (1:17:52) Dutchess County, NY (1:17:56)
New York University (NYU) (1:18:00) raising child (1:18:36) grandson (1:20:29) Braille (1:24:02) P.S. 6 (1:24:03) iPhone (1:24:29) KNFB Reader (1:25:18) National Federation for the Blind (NFB) (1:25:22)
subway platform (1:26:28) American Council of the Blind (ACB) (1:27:09) National Federation for the Blind (NFB) (1:27:35) American Council of the Blind (ACB) (1:27:41) bowling (1:27:54)
childhood friends (1:29:17) Tennessee (1:29:26) Facebook (1:29:31) Kenny Reynolds (1:29:33) Facebook (1:29:46) Obama (1:30:22) racism (1:30:38) political views (1:30:58) sports (1:31:28) walking (1:32:15)
125th Street (1:32:18) guide dog (1:32:44) visual art (1:34:00) perception (1:34:32) blind artist (1:34:57) blind from early childhood (1:35:15) teenager blind since age 2 (1:35:29) blind sensing sounds (1:35:35)
size perception (1:36:11) elephant (1:36:32) whale (1:37:05) Madame Tussauds Wax Museum (1:37:27) Madame Tussauds Wax Museum (1:37:47) Shaquille O'Neal (1:38:03) John F. Kennedy (1:38:09)
Michael Jackson (1:38:10) Shaquille O'Neal (1:38:38) dolphins (1:39:12) England (1:39:41) Florida (1:40:51) Morocco (1:41:23) traveling (1:41:40) dream trip (1:41:44) bucket list (1:42:10) Japan (1:42:14)
National Federation for the Blind (NFB) (1:43:21) acceptance work in progress (1:43:31) documentary (1:43:35) Dialogue in the Dark (1:43:53) attitude (1:44:21) listening (1:44:26) store behaviors (1:44:52)
American Council of the Blind (ACB) (1:45:10)cues for blind people (1:45:29)deaf people (1:45:59)play (1:46:02)University of Arkansas (1:46:27)questions about deaf people (1:47:36)Braille writer (1:48:12)
making love (1:49:51) magic of sight (1:51:40) Marist College (1:52:35) orchestra seats (1:52:51) African American (1:53:32) skiing (1:56:07) Sports for Health (1:56:28) Ski for Light (1:56:30)
United States Association of Blind Athletes (USABA) (1:56:34) bar (1:57:19) segregated bathrooms (1:58:26) blind privilege (1:58:51) operation (2:00:12) robots (2:01:30) modern assistive technology (2:02:05)
technology funding (2:03:01) State Commission for the Blind (2:03:18) Apple (2:03:42) JAWS screen reader (2:03:51) iPhone 5S (2:04:40) music apps (2:09:10) website applevis.com (2:10:35)

Play space bar

C

Done? Next: Transcribe

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Undo backspace

Restart r

we felt we needed something different





New York



Foundation

computers are good at some things...



like OCR for audio![™]

(not sure if they trademarked that)

we get transcription "snippets"

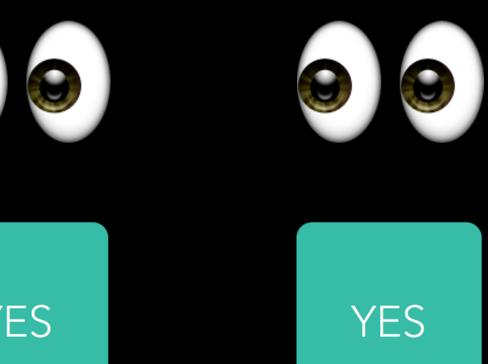
from 1 to about 6 seconds long in varying levels of quality

start_time	sequence	original_text
4077	0	So many Muslims out and going to be having a conversation with the ones of you know
9008	1	for visible lives and history project at in the library
13107	2	. Today is December second twenty fourteen.
17948	3	And. This is being recorded at the into high school library
27957	5	Tell me something about growing up. Sure where you come from.
31267	6	Sure so I was born in Plainfield New Jersey
36538	7	which is about twenty miles west of New York City
41148	8	almost New Jerseyites or New Jerseyans say that there are two
46127	9	parts of Jersey north and south. But. Some
50367	10	. Some folks will argue there's something called Central
55307	11	Jersey but usually those people that don't come from New Jersey. So
60587	12	North Jersey where I grew up when I was first where I was
65227	13	born we lived actually in playfields in a
70138	14	little apartment my mother and father and my first our first dog to a little
74897	15	poodle who I swear I remember my mother Oh he said I only remember it from
79608	16	pictures because I was so little I couldn't possibly remember the dog.
85347	17	But after you know after a while we move to a bigger house in a town called
89998	18	Middlesex this is all around the same sort of part of New Jersey sort of Union
94737	19	County Somerset County. And then for a while
99498	20	after that we lived there till I was about two and a half or three because my my
104267	21	brother Steven was born at that time. When was this when I was born in one thousand
108918	22	sixty two March one thousand nine hundred sixty two and my brother was born in November of
113877	23	one thousand sixty four. We moved in with my mother's
118877	24	mother for a little while while we were while my parents were searching for a
123388	25	house where at a town where they really wanted to
127938	26	settle. On and that was in North Plainfield New Jersey where I
132787	27	lived for I'd say. Really a year he lived with my grandmother

people are good at other things...

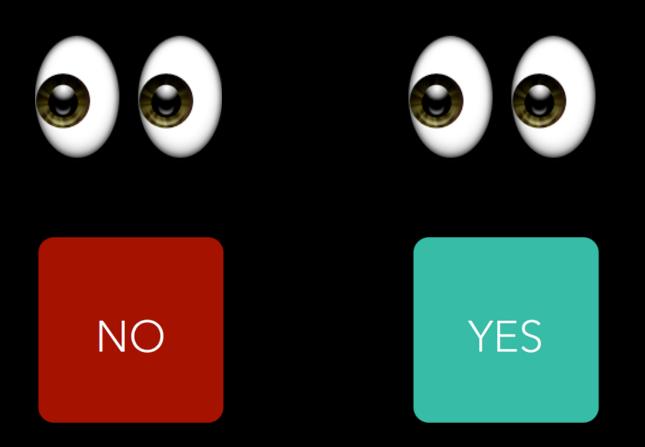




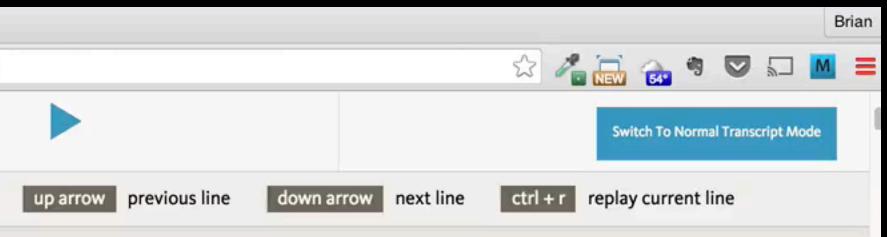








	NYPL Community Oral Hist ×
$\leftarrow \Rightarrow$	
	< Return to Victoria Hammond's Interview Page
	Keyboard shortcuts: tab next word enter submit & continue
0:02	You know mining is for me and
0:06	conversation one that we saw h
0:11	visualize an oral history project
0:16	library.
0:17	He's the twenty second of May 1
0:21	And this is being recorded at St
0.25	

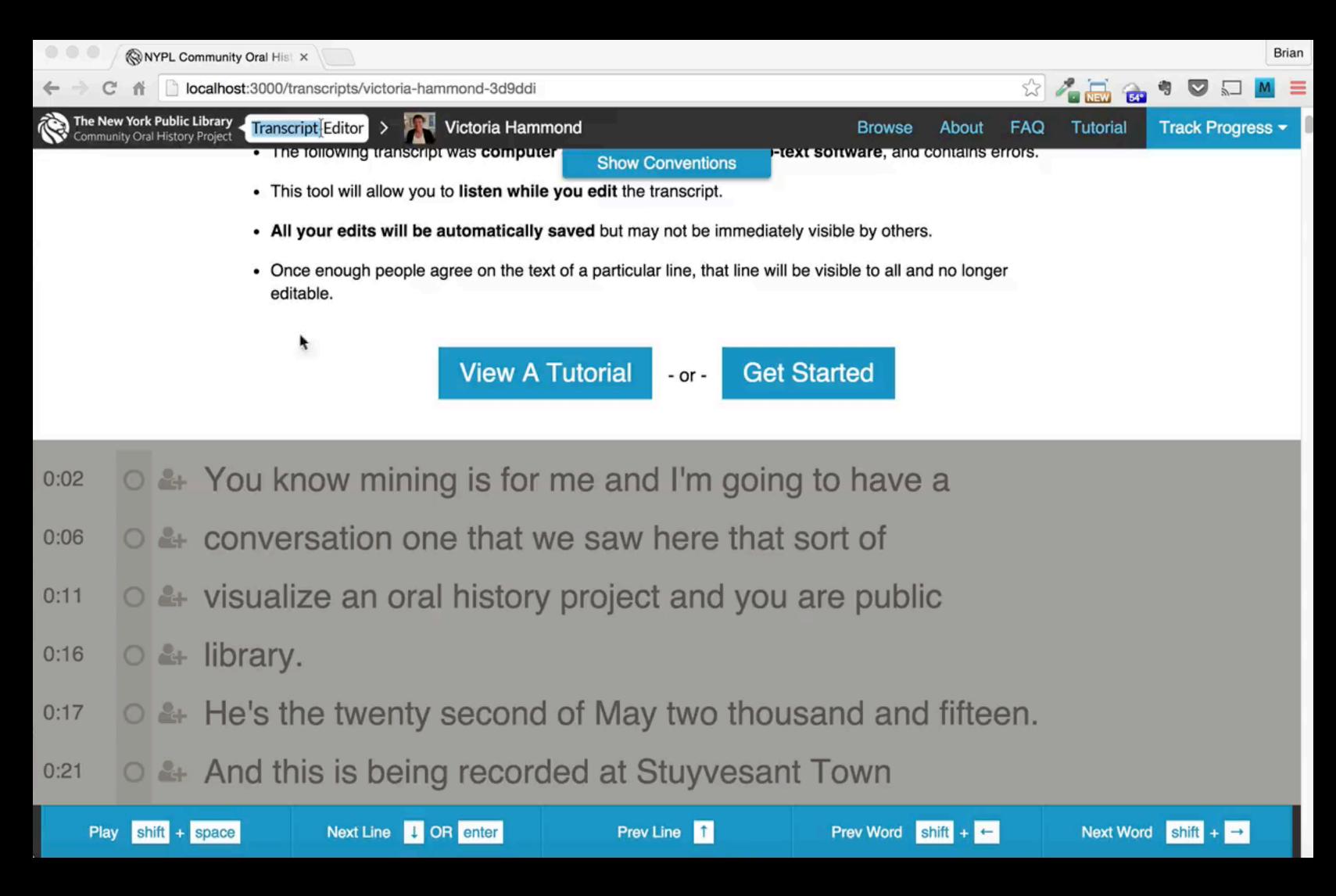


I'm going to have a

- nere that sort of
- and you are public
- two thousand and fifteen.
- uyvesant Town

by brian foo @beefoo

we conducted a few usability studies



by brian foo @beefoo

submitted_text

and, this is being recorded at the Andrew Heiskell Library.
and this is being recorded at the Andrew Heiskell library.
And this is being recorded at the Andrew Haskell library.
and this is being recorded at the ? High School library.
and this is being recorded at the [?] High School library.
And, this is being recorded at the Andrew Highskill library.
And, this is being recorded at the Andrew Highskill Library.
And. this is being recorded at the high school library.
And. This is being recorded at the Andrew Heiskell Library
And. This is being recorded at the Andrew Heiskell library.

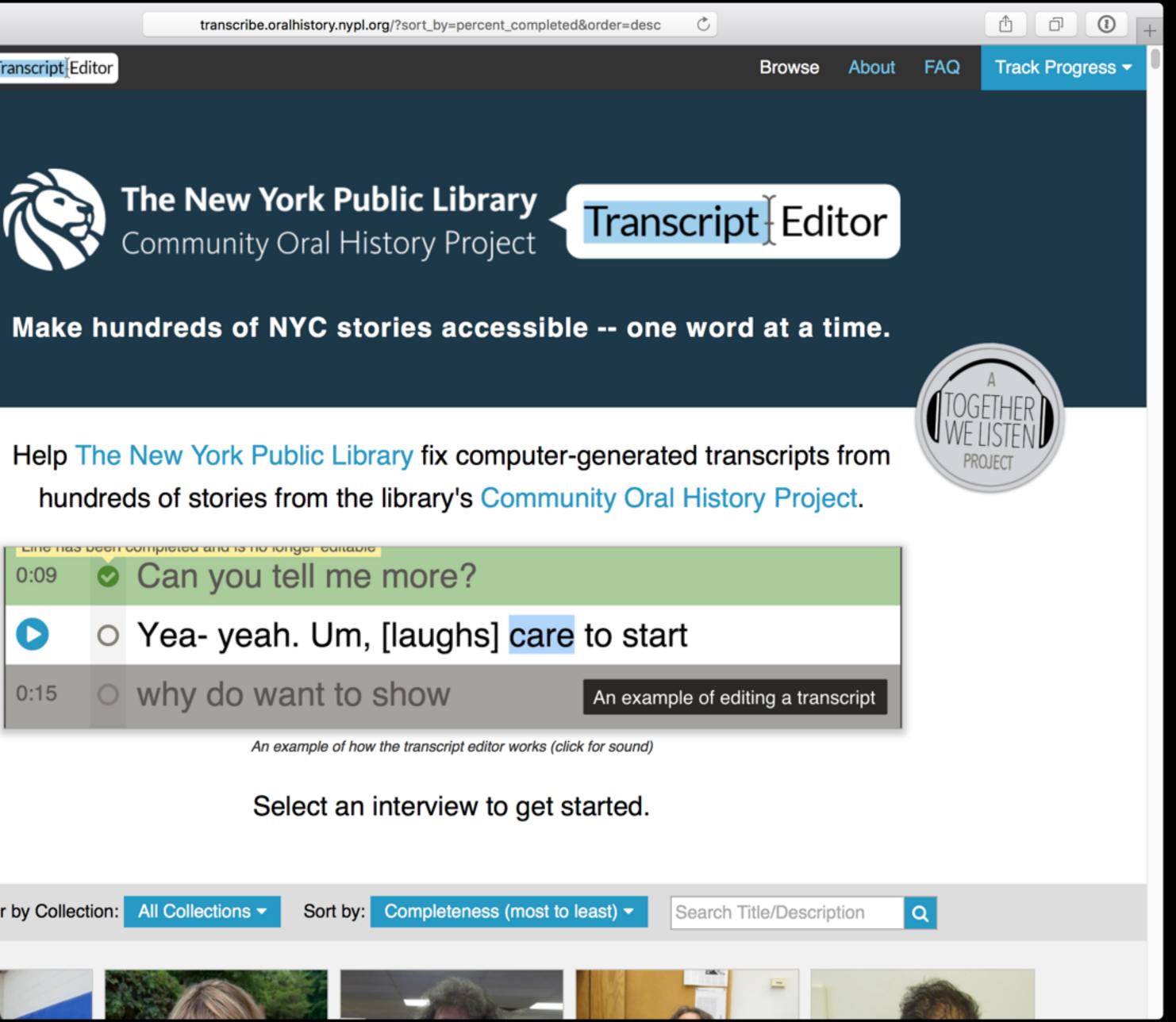
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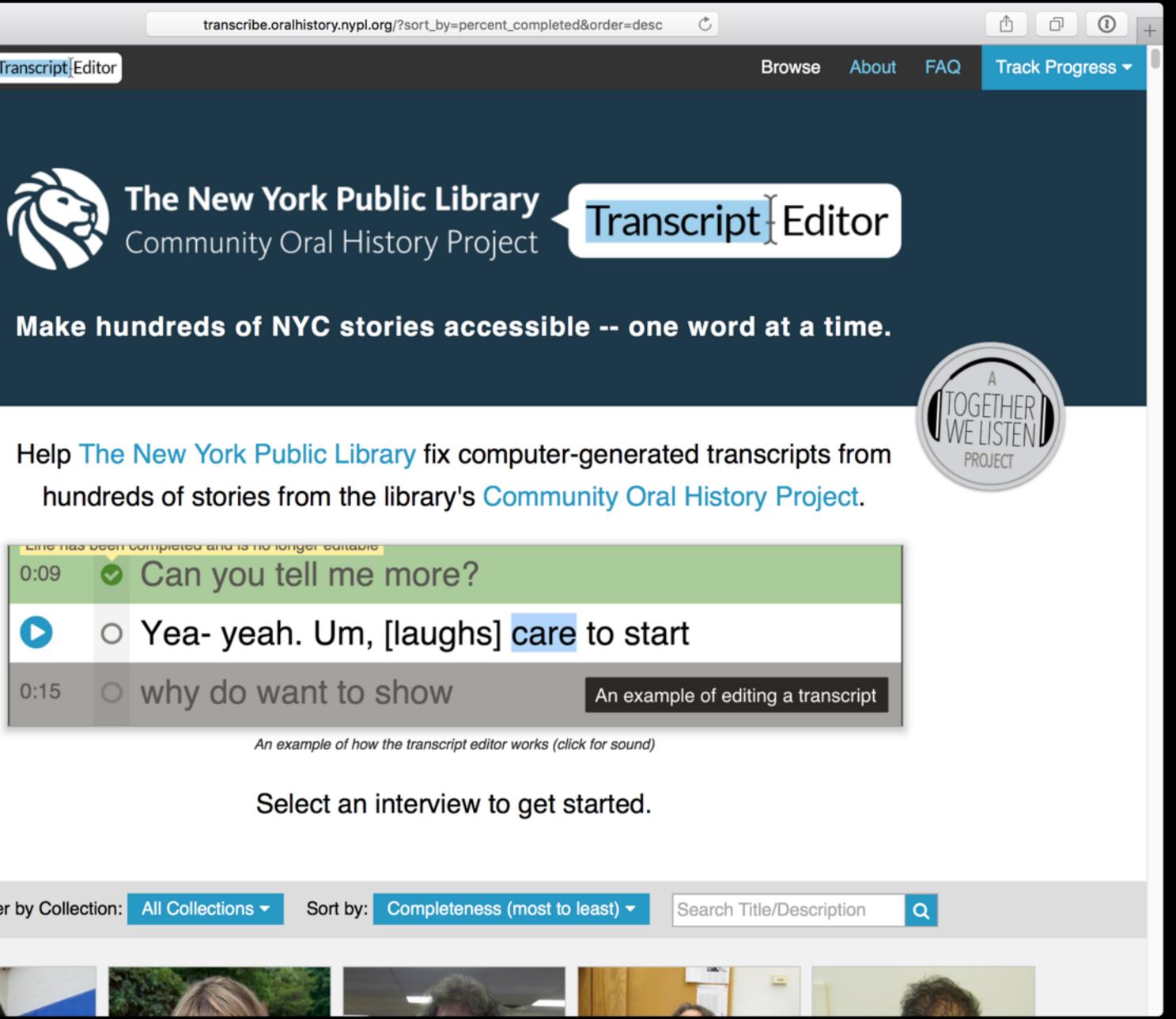
ugh, Some folks will argue there's something called Central folks will argue there's something called Central some folks will argue there's something called Central Jersey Uh, some folks will argue there's something called Central %uh, some folks will argue there's something called Central

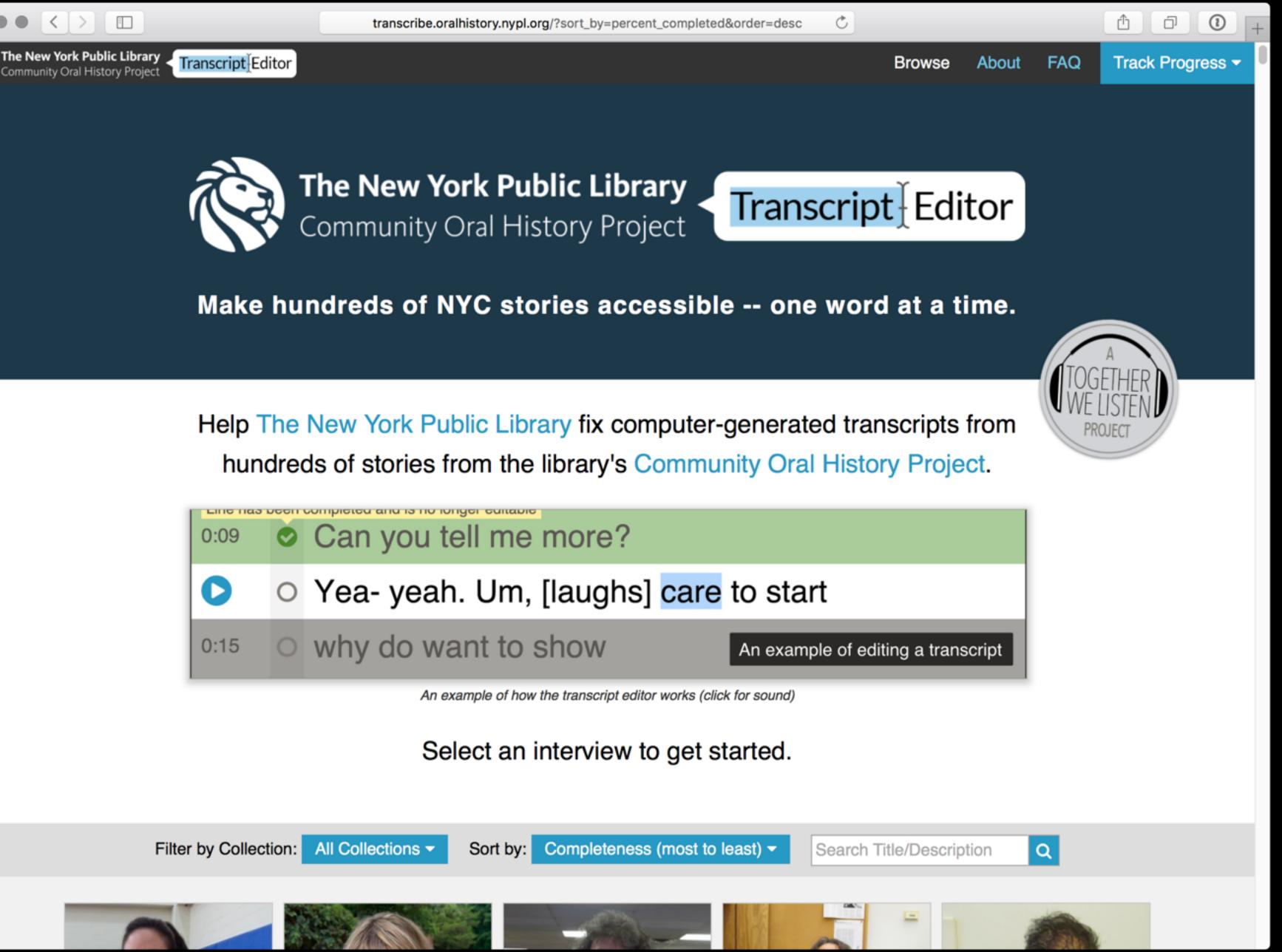
- %uh, uh some folks will argue there's something called Central Jersey
- uh, uh, some folks will argue there's something called Central Jersey.
- uh, some folks will argue there's something called Central Jersey

it's hard to reach consensus

embrace imperfection







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Community Oral History Project

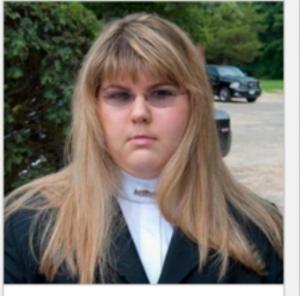
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Aisha al-Adawiya, a Harlem resident for 35 years, also works in Harlem - at the renowned ..

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Arthur King

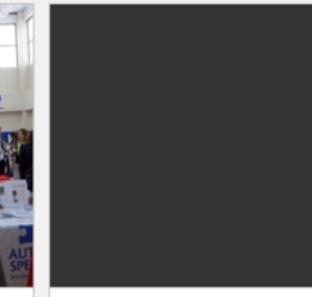
Interviewed by Diane Campione

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VISIBLE LIVES Amy Rosenfeld Interviewed by Lynne Luxton 15m 45% completed



A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF HARLEM Esther Zhang

China-born Esther Zhang, a graduate student now residing in Harlem, shares her impressio..

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Anthony Griffith

9m

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3m

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this is one week after launch

it is still being improved

two of several projects we've worked on so far

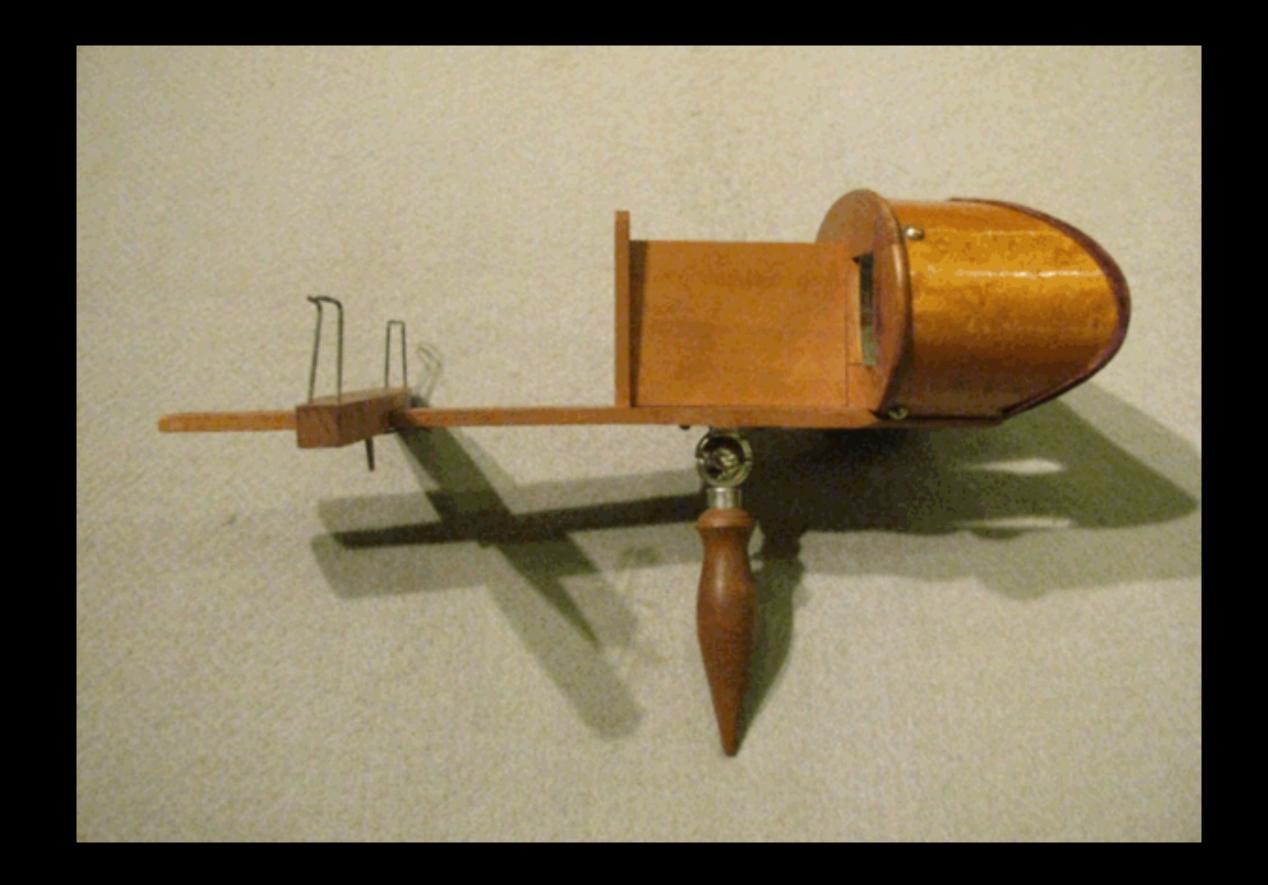
of human-computer collaboration

it's a collaborative process

Willa Armstrong, Shawn Averkamp, Paul Beaudoin, Brian Foo, Josh Hadro, Elizabeth Hummer, Ara Kim, Shana Kimball, Tom Listanti, Matthew Miller, Eric Shows, Bert Spaan, and more at NYPL...

one more thing...



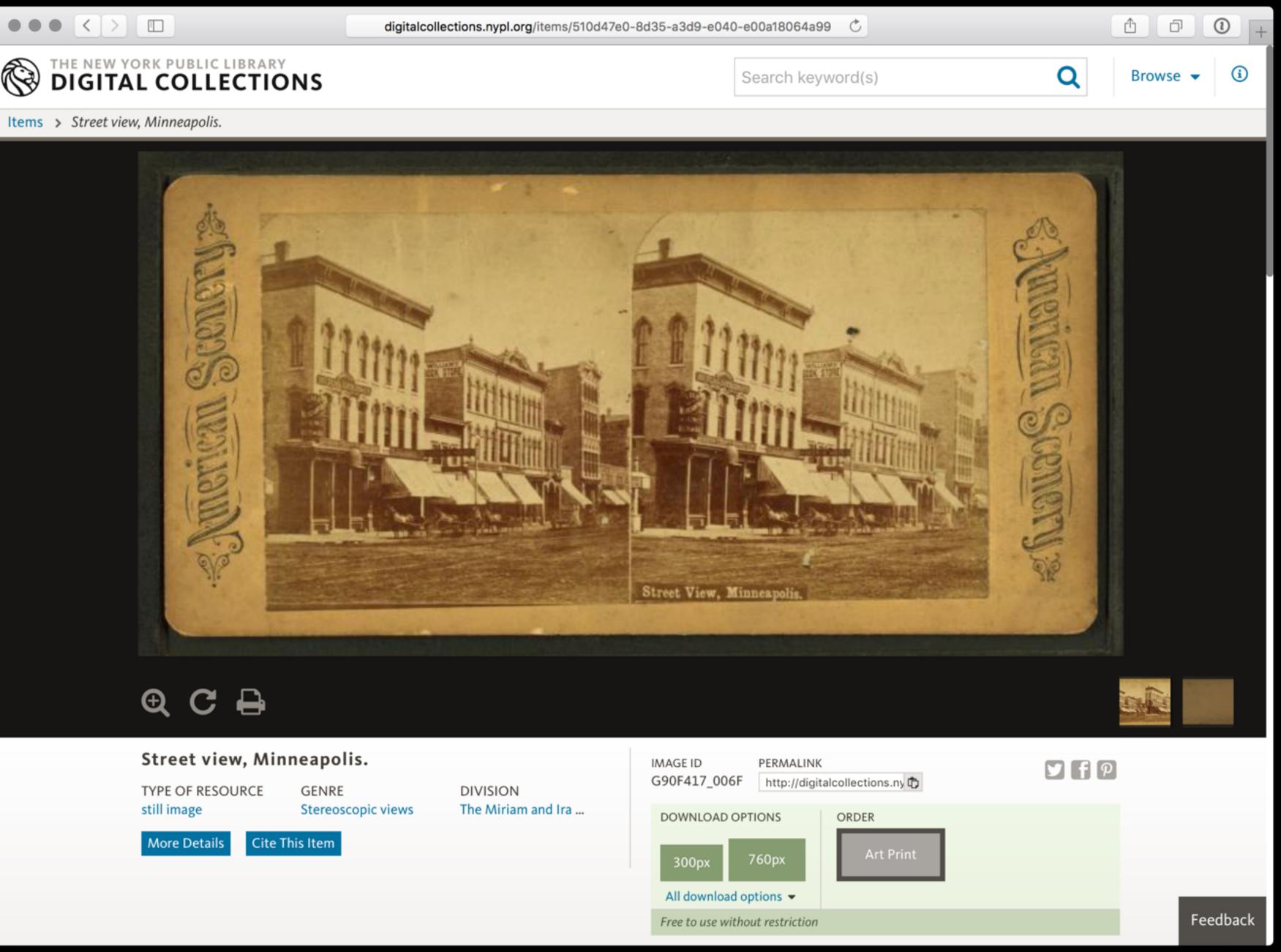




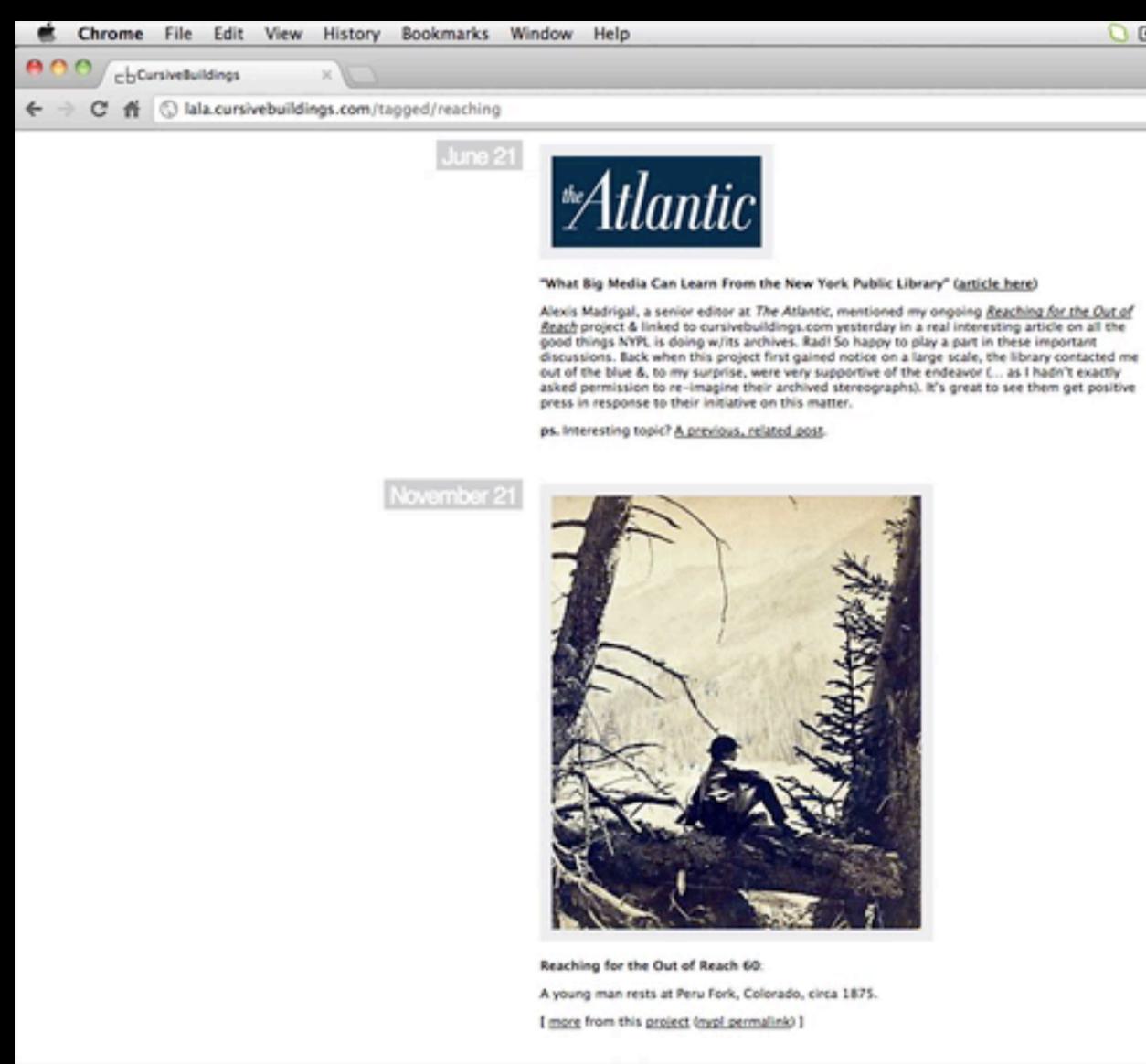


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Reaching for the Out of Reach

Blog Art (looks)

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Fever Math

Ahhhhhmegazine no. 5, no. 4, no. 3, no. 2, no. 1 (art mags)

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Polaroids/Photos

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SONGS (more)

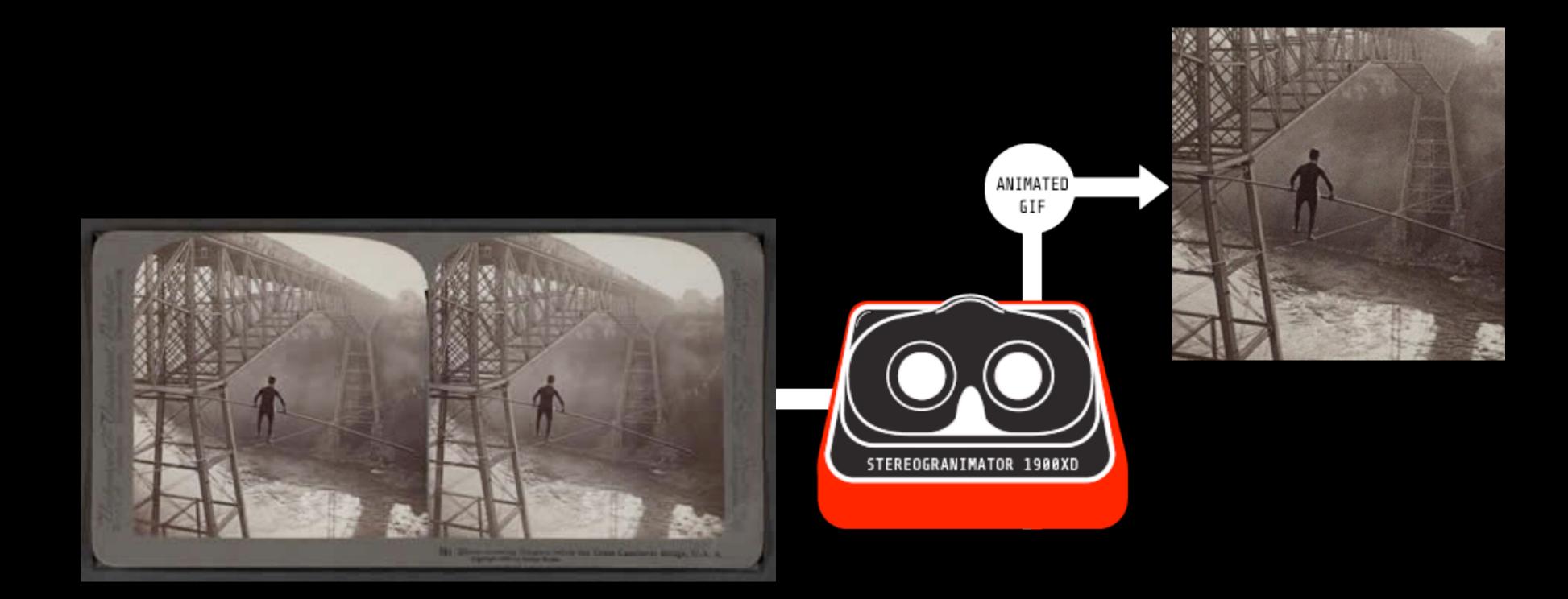


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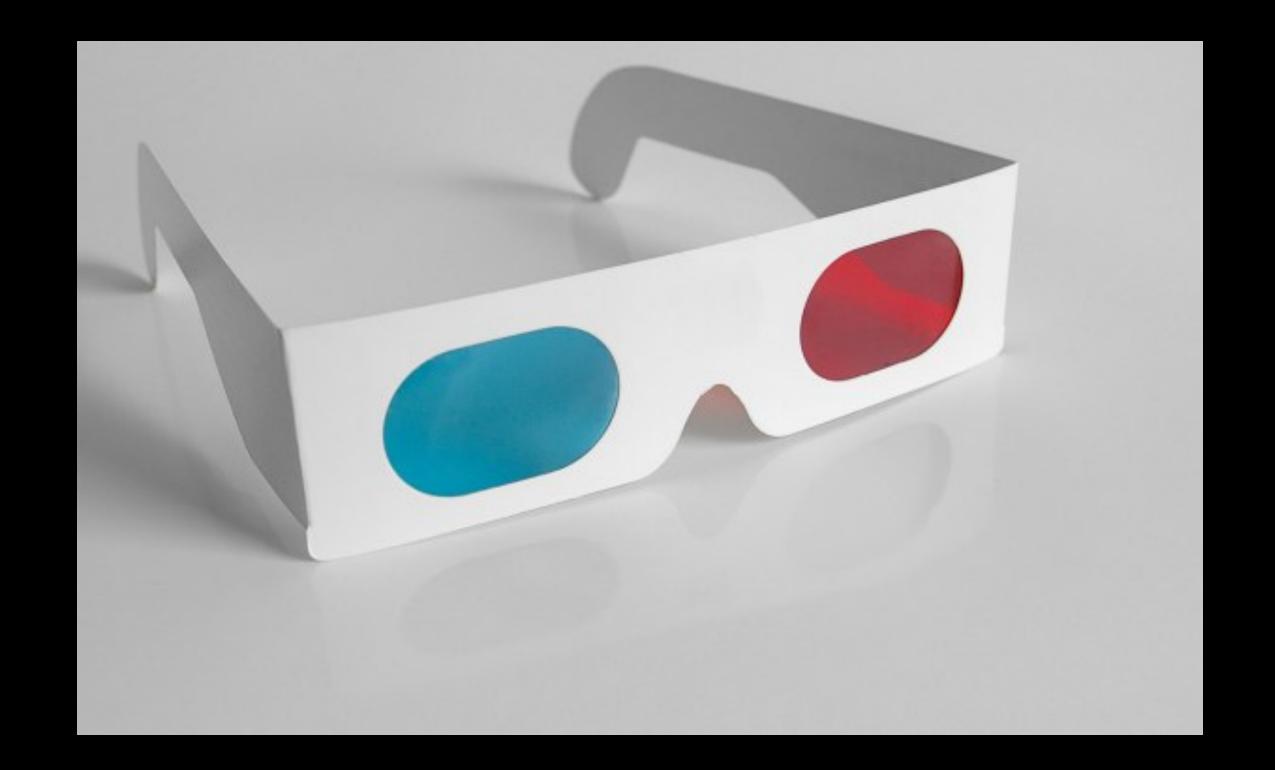
how to decode the 3D data?

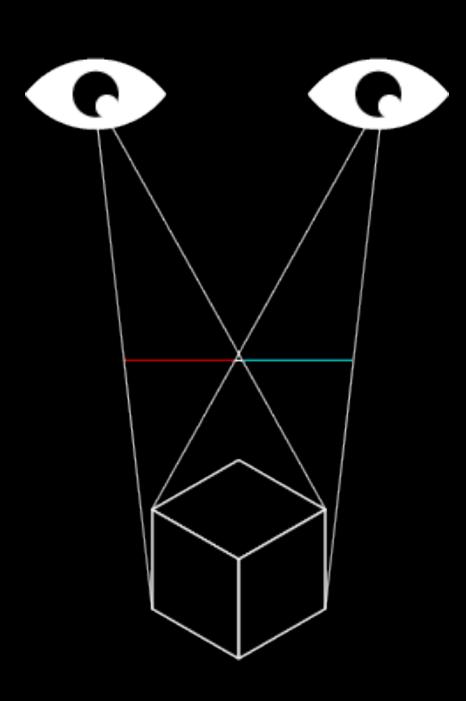
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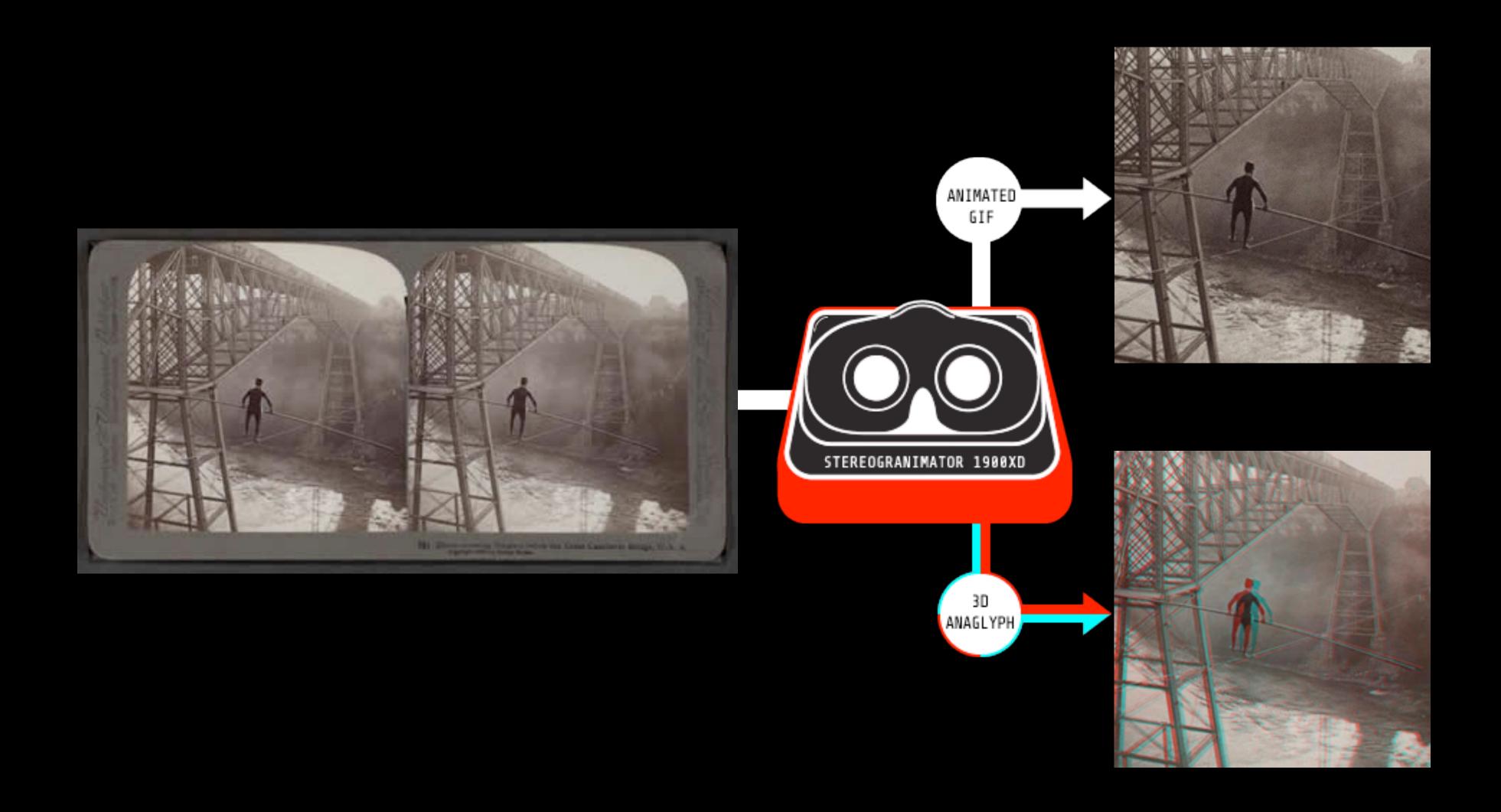


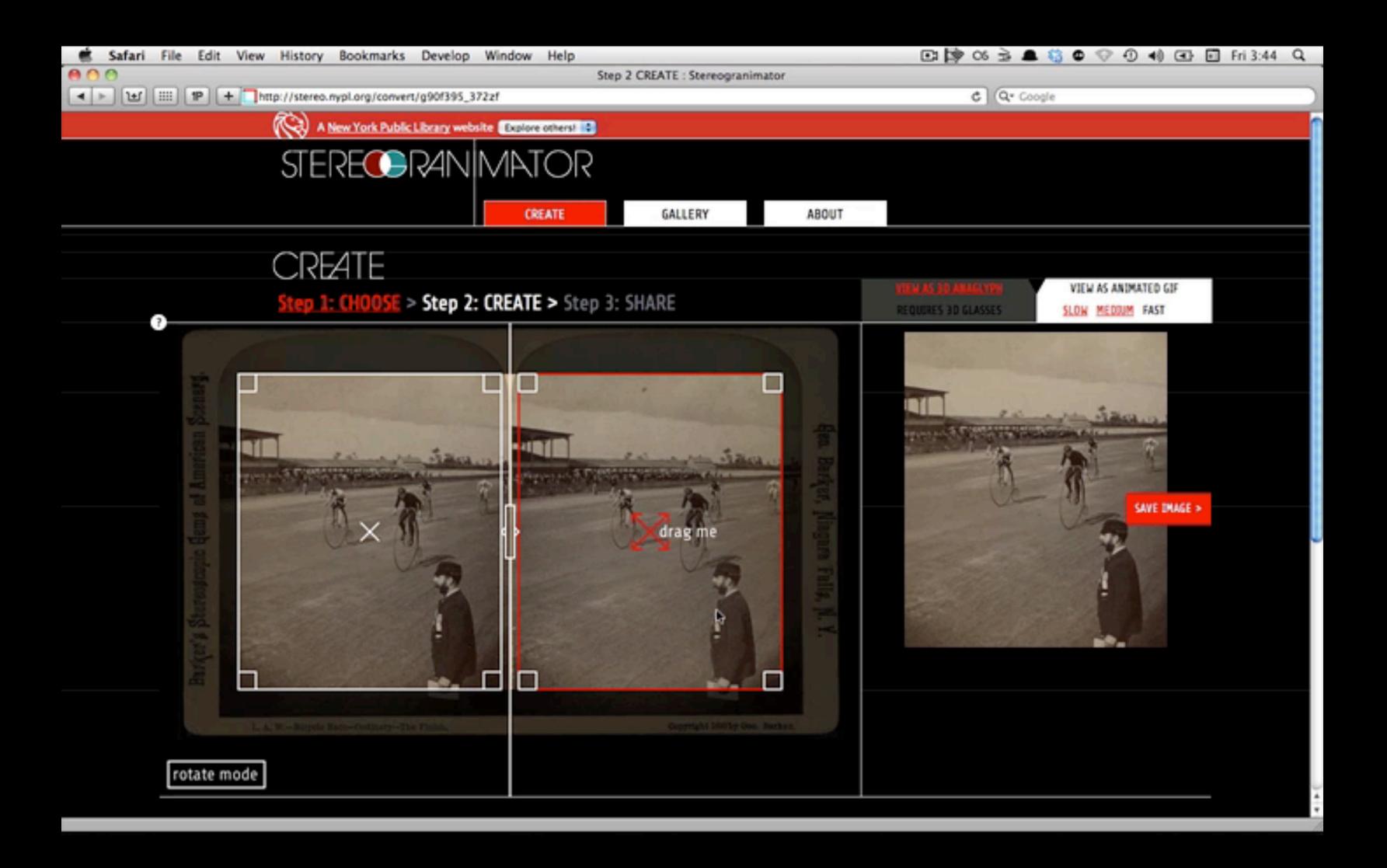
- 1. Move the line so that it divides the stereograph in two.
- 2. Press CORRECT ROTATION.
- 3. Move the rectangles so that they cover each side of the photo.





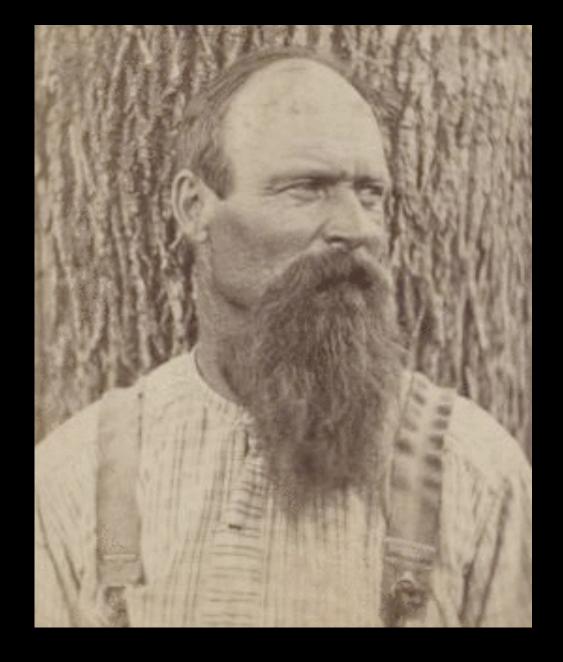




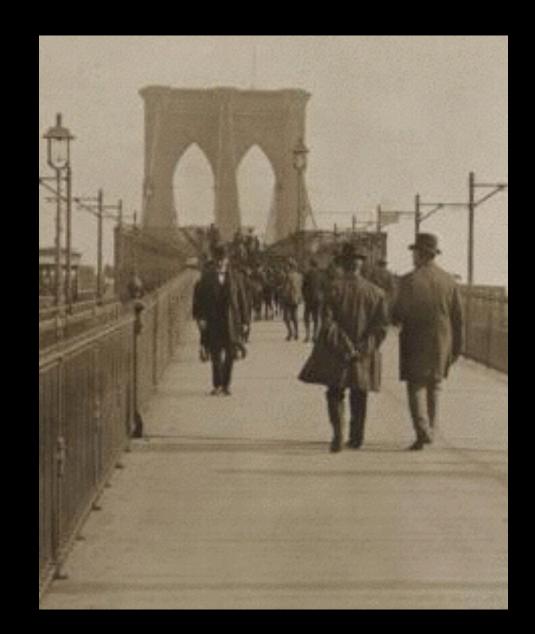


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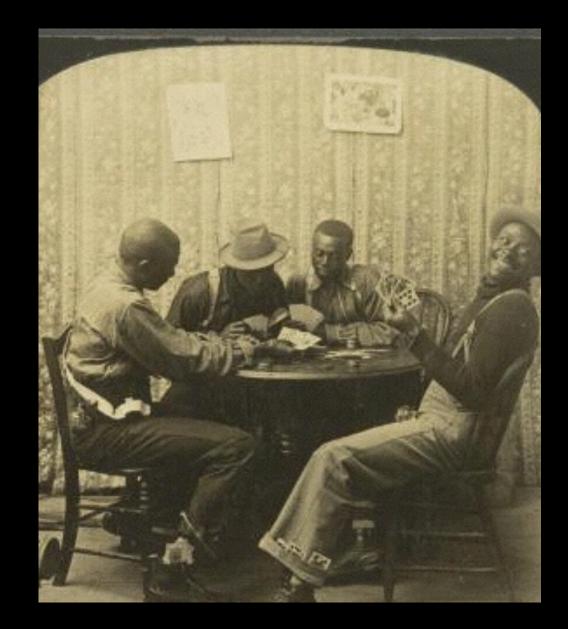






























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thank you!

IPAM Culture Analytics and User Experience Design, April 2016

mauricio giraldo arteaga @mgiraldo @nypl_labs