

MediaNOLA report

<http://medianola.org/home>

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*** In which ways did your experience at DU support your project's research and development?**

The space for thought that was afforded by the week at DU helped develop our thoughts not just regarding the development of the archive in terms of where the project was headed but also the importance of the visual aspects of archival work. We learned the importance of publicity and promoting the site. Vicki now maintains a Tumblr site which Mike attached to a Twitter feed. As she does more presentations and publishes about the site, it has become more known throughout Tulane and the alumni community.

As the project has expanded, concerns about the consistency of data and the overall focus of the project have become more urgent. In addition the GIS visualization of the archive has helped to reveal narratives within the use of urban space that were not otherwise expected. The archive has become more focused in both our creation of content and the visual narratives that content has revealed.

*** Which aspects / components of your project have you addressed or implemented since your visit to DU?**

Since our time at DU our major focus has been on moving the major GIS servers into the Tulane data center. Delays from within the technical team pushed the project back but we are on the cusp of having not just our GIS production environment but also the development environment of the underlying software hosted from within Tulane.

In addition, MediaNOLA has become an official partner of the Center for Public Service to bring more Tulane students into the project and publicize their research as a form of service to public history. Future institutionalization may be on the horizon through start of a student major in Gulf South Studies.

The pr materials are still in a process of development but presentations have all generated interest. FAQ sheets, social media posts, and posters have been created and distributed through class presentations and meetings. Alumni support still needs to be addressed with a more professional packet of materials. Yet the initial results of the publicity have been phenomenal. Several community partners have arisen. One university partnership with UNO has now led to a joint effort to combine our forces to make mobile phone tours using the template created by Cleveland Historical.

*** What do you plan to accomplish next with your project?**

Once the server move is complete, we will be able to do more development work on the system from directly within the university. Hopefully, this will allow for a faster development of features and an amplification of the visual features that are already available for the analysis of archive data. New features have started through student initiatives including a video game based on MediaNOLA materials.