Telling Stories Together

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Core questions:

- What conditions make for successful collaborations between journalism and computer science students?

- What can journalism educators, and their institutions, do to promote these conditions?

Why does it matter?

'News unicorn' is a myth – instead the reality is nimble, collaborative teams working together. (Howe et al 2017)

'A team approach is adopted whereby journalists, programmers and designers work closely together to produce multimedia, interactive news products...' (Hannaford 2015).

A useful model would be to 'bring together the social worlds of journalism and technology students within a university setting to foster greater understanding and collaboration' (Hannaford 2015).
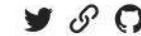
Method

Zach Wise
Associate Professor

Emmy winning interactive producer
& Associate Professor
@NorthwesternU, @KnightLab.
Formerly of The New York Times.
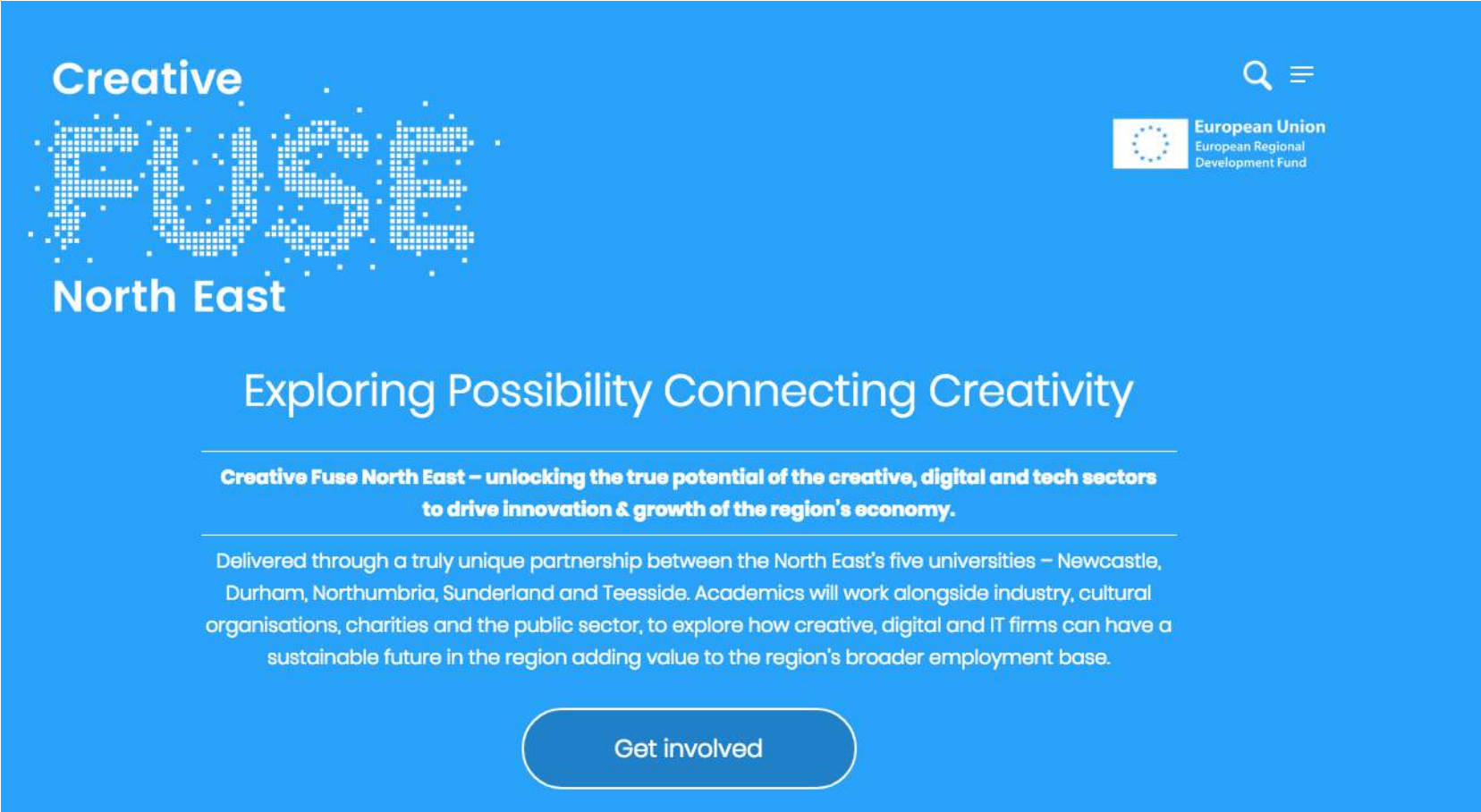Creator of TimelineJS & StoryMapJS

Joe Germuska
Chief Nerd

Joe runs Knight Lab's technology,
professional staff and student
fellows. Before joining us, Joe was on
the Chicago Tribune News Apps team.
Also, he hosts a weekly radio show on
WNUR-FM – Conference of the Birds.

Background – Creative Fuse

Creative FUSE North East

Exploring Possibility Connecting Creativity

Blog

CAKE Mix 19: Journalism – Creativity & Collaboration

For our 19th Collaboration and Knowledge Exchange (CAKE) event, the University of Sunderland team shone a

Creative FUSE North East

Shoot, Edit, Share

25th and 26th June
Sunderland University

Mark Adamson
@adamsonmark

Follow

Back @sunderlanduni and @HopeStXchange for #FuseCAKE for 'Digital Investigative Journalism' with Neil MacFarlane. Data, public interest, interactive storytelling all to come...

digital
investigative
journalism

8:19 AM - 22 Mar 2018

EDITION
UK

HUFFPOST

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POLITICS 06/06/2018 14:22 BST

218

Tory Women Targeted For More Sexist Tweets Than Labour Counterparts

At one point, Theresa May received abusive tweets every 1.2 minutes.

By Rachel Wearmouth

THERESA MAY STANDING UP FOR BRITAIN

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Chicago

Knight Lab

Northwestern University Knight Lab is a community of designers, developers, students, and educators working on experiments designed to push journalism into new spaces.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

device lab

*Explore new technology.
Form big ideas.*

Devices   Posts

studio

Pushing media into new spaces.

Categories   Projects   Results
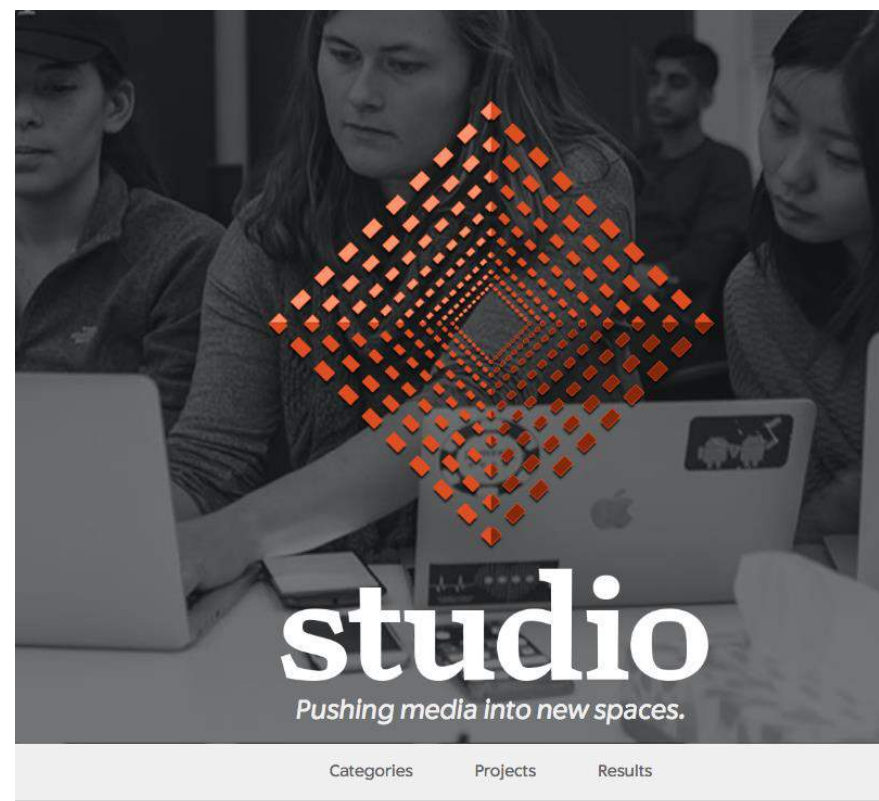
Storytelling Tools

We build easy-to-use tools that can help you tell better stories.

Timeline JS

Easy-to-make, beautiful timelines.

StoryMap JS

Maps that tell stories.

Juxtapose JS

Easy-to-make frame comparisons.
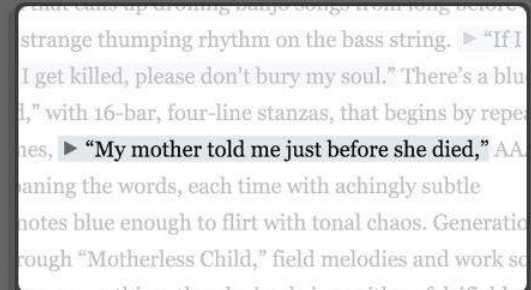
Soundcite JS

Seamless inline audio.

View More

Findings

Ethos

- Ethos of creativity, experimentation and 'freedom to fail'.

- 'It's about moving quickly, trying things, failing, learning, and trying again.' (Joe Germuska)

- Better without external partnerships?

Approach - design

'We really see this as a design operation. You have only limited time and skills to work with technology, so you better be doing it for good reasons. So we start with design process to identify the right thing to do and design methods that allow you to do research and experimentally evolve into the right thing.' (Joe Germuska)

Howe et al (2017) found similar in analysis of data journalism.

Curriculum and process

- Make the module credit-bearing – both journalism and CS

- Best as an option

'Every Journalism student goes though fundamentals that include basic web stuff, but it's one of the staff's least favourite things to teach because students are doing it because they have to.' (Germuska)

- Selective (80 students applied for 20 places)

Projects

- Created by staff – students apply to specific projects
    - Saves time, gives focus, creates more motivated teams

Audience Engagement and Onboarding with Hearken

Students are working closely with the team at Hearken, and are gaining valuable insights into how important audience engagement is to our media landscape.

DETAILS

Civic Engagement with City Bureau

As local news organizations shrink, many civic advocates fear that no one will be monitoring the day-to-day processes that make city governments run. As part of their innovative approach to closing news gaps and promoting civic engagement, Chicago's City

DETAILS

Crowdsourcing for Journalism

Many important news stories are buried amidst huge numbers of documents. And sometimes, those documents are hard for news organizations to process, either because of the sheer number, or the formats in which the documents are published.

DETAILS

Historical Census Data
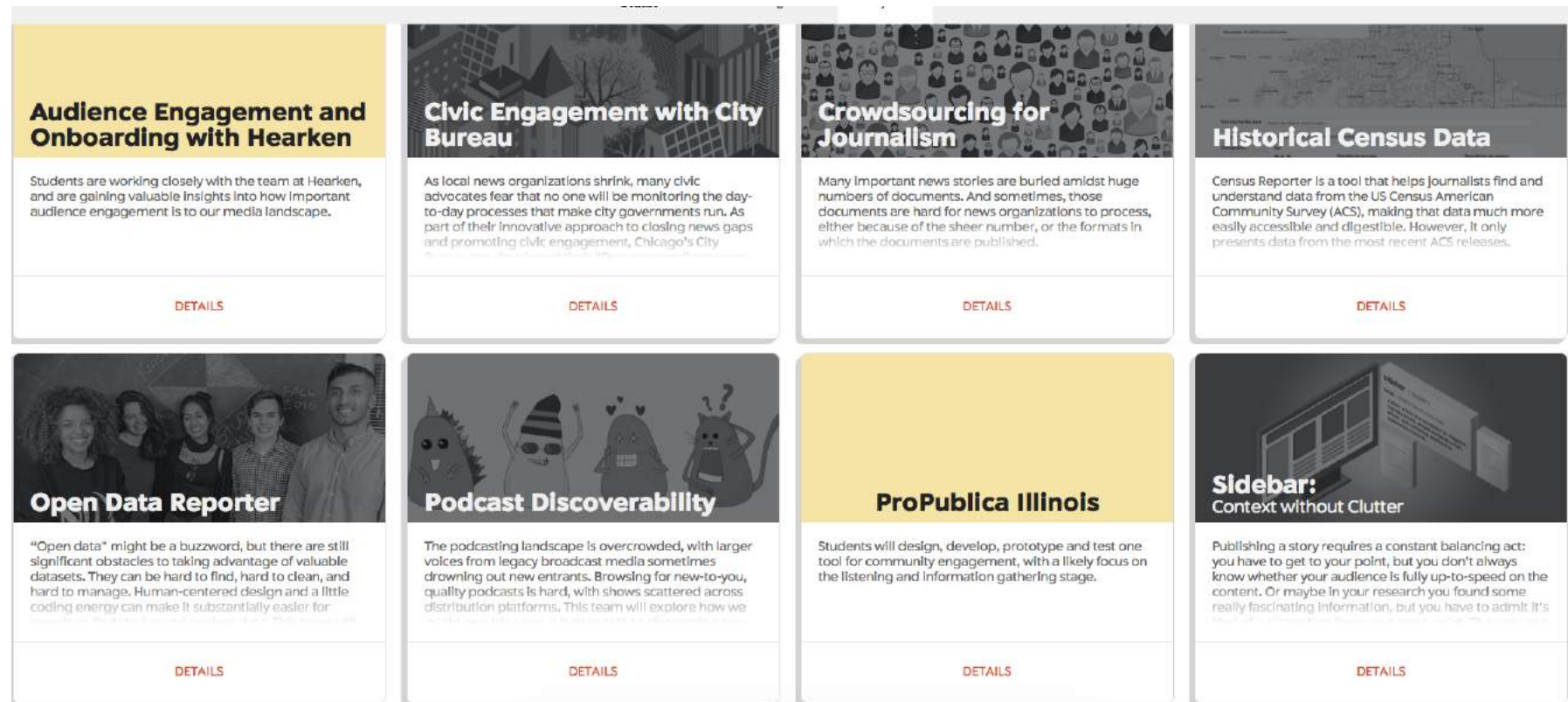
Census Reporter is a tool that helps journalists find and understand data from the US Census American Community Survey (ACS), making that data much more easily accessible and digestible. However, it only presents data from the most recent ACS releases.

DETAILS

Open Data Reporter

"Open data" might be a buzzword, but there are still significant obstacles to taking advantage of valuable datasets. They can be hard to find, hard to clean, and hard to manage. Human-centered design and a little coding energy can make it substantially easier for

DETAILS

Podcast Discoverability

The podcasting landscape is overcrowded, with larger voices from legacy broadcast media sometimes drowning out new entrants. Browsing for new-to-you, quality podcasts is hard, with shows scattered across distribution platforms. This team will explore how we

DETAILS

ProPublica Illinois

Students will design, develop, prototype and test one tool for community engagement, with a likely focus on the listening and information gathering stage.

DETAILS

Sidebar: Context without Clutter

Publishing a story requires a constant balancing act: you have to get to your point, but you don't always know whether your audience is fully up-to-speed on the content. Or maybe in your research you found some really fascinating information, but you have to admit it's

DETAILS

Scale and mix

- Groups of 4 or 5 work best…
- …containing 1 or 2 journalism students

Role of journalism students

- Tends to be group management, focus on problem/audience and communication of results

'I feel like journalism students add value by bringing a solid vision to the project and a good grasp of audience engagement.' (student)

Similar to newsrooms – Hannaford (2015)

Preparation required

- Some knowledge of coding required – enough for understanding and communication

'It is important for them (journalism students) to understand what is feasible with current technology in the given time frame.' (Student)

'One journalism student should have ample coding experience to communicate solutions-oriented feedback from the journalism students that may struggle to communicate with engineers.' (Student)

Assessment

- Focus on reflection and learning – not the output of project
- This helps creativity and freedom to fail

'… assessment is geared to ensure that students focus more on learning than execution, and are therefore prepared to take more risks in their work' (Paul Bradshaw).

Resources

- Two Faculty staff (per class)
- Two technicians
- Paid student fellow

- Heravi (2018) and Treadwell et al (2018) identified shortage of specialist staff as major challenge in this area

'The philosophy is that the team as a whole can do more than the individual student... the truth is that diverse teams, working well together, will find the way forward for journalism.' (Joe Germuska)

References

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- Heravi BR (2018) 3Ws of Data Journalism Education. *Journalism Practice.* https://doi.org/10.1080/17512786.2018.1463167

- Howe, J., Bajak, A., Kraft, D. & Wihbey, J. (2017) Collaborative, Open, Mobile: A thematic exploration of best practices at the forefront of digital journalism. Working paper. Northeastern University School of Journalism's Media Innovation Program.

- Treadwell, G; Ross, T; Lee, A & Lowenstein JK (2018) A Numbers Game: Two Case Studies in Teaching Data Journalism. *Journalism and Mass Communication Educator.* 71(3) 297-308.