Project Title

Mapping TIMEA

Project Mentor(s)

Farès el-Dahdah

Project Summary

Georeference and geolocalize all maps and images currently held in the Travelers in the Middle East Archive and improve your GIS skills, in the process. Archival material will be geographically and temporally situated and this will allow users to see change over time across urban settlements represented in the collection.

Project Description

The Travelers in the Middle East Archive, or TIMEA, provides online access to texts, maps, and images documenting travel to the Middle East (primarily Egypt) between the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These materials range from travel guides, travel narratives, and museum catalogs to stereocards, advertisements and postcards. Fondren Library hosts an online version of this archive in order to facilitate access and analysis, i.e., texts are searchable and images are described. TIMEA is supposed to also make available interactive, dynamic GIS (Geographical Information Systems) maps that reveal the relationships between geographical features such as elevation and water and cultural phenomena such as settlement patterns. TIMEA's GIS module does not seem to be working and we propose to update it by first georeferencing its maps and situating them in time and space. The goal is to not only reveal the relationships between geographical features but also allow users to see change over time across urban settlements that are represented in the archive. This will require geostituating TIMEA's images, as well. Once all this material is situated temporally and geographically and with the assistance of the Spatial Studies Lab (spatialstudieslab.rice.edu), we will, in addition, create a publicly accessible user interface that will integrate and display all this material while charting the itineraries of travelers across the historic cartography and imagery of the middle east. The ultimate goal is to create a collaborative platform for mapping historical itinerancies. Such a platform will function as a tool that allows scholars to represent large amounts of data on georeferenced historical maps while visualizing travel within contemporaneous representations of cartographic space. Such a new visual, geospatial, and media technology helps researchers gain spatial, temporal, kinetic, and aesthetic knowledge of places and travelers as they once existed and as they were once imagined.

Key Tasks for Fellow(s)

Identify maps and images in the Travelers in the Middle East Archive; georeference and geolocalize maps and images using ArcGIS Pro; Create a User Interface

Qualifications

Basic GIS and Web Development Skills

Learning Outcomes

Learn about change over time in the Middle East; ESRI's Experience Builder; JSTOR Forum; Web Development.