Shaping DH to Meet the Skills and Needs of a Rural Community

*Every Community is Different!

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Background

- Personal experience in rural communities
- Covid-19
- What does it mean to practice Digital Humanities with limited digital access
- Applying DH/non-DH principles to online spaces as a whole
Common Challenges

- Access to technology, including broadband internet
- Lack of familiarity with digital platforms
  - Older/generational demographic
  - Not crucial for daily life
- Hesitancy toward digital platforms
  - Financial
  - Educational
  - Distrust
Adaptations and Solutions

- Check your accessibility standards
  - Mobile friendly
- Be a resource
  - Wifi hotspots
- Create manuals
  - With images!
Adaptations and Solutions

● Keep things simple and streamlined
  ○ But maybe not for you!
  ○ Intuition is not a given—fill in the gaps
● What social media and learning platforms are popular in the area?
● Broaden your idea of DH and be creative!

Click on one of the maps to explore stories from Adirondack conservation in the 20th Century.
(Right click on the images to open the map websites in a new tab)

map below to view an overview of stories throughout the 20th century, grouped by category. Use the four tabs to explore the stories accordingly.

EXPLORE THE EXHIBIT

Play ▶
Click here for event information.
Example–Online Exhibits

- Does Google Slides count as an online exhibit?
  - Utilize open source platforms
  - Physical exhibit comparison
The best platform for the job, isn’t always the best platform for the community.
Example–Resource Access

- Collections, Curriculums, etc.
  - Make things downloadable

*Digital isn’t always the answer*