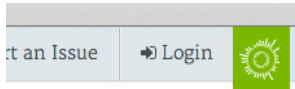# Getting Started with **TimeMapper**

TimeMapper is a web-based tool for building interactive timemaps (timelines whose data points connect to a geographic map) from data entered in a Google spreadsheet. The timemaps can be accessed online or embedded in your own website.
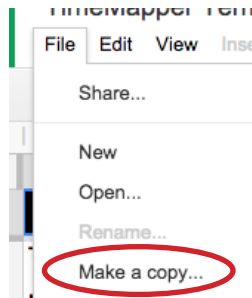
Initial setup

Create an account on TimeMapper (http://timemapper.okfnlabs.org/) using the 'Login' link at the top right of the screen. You'll log in using your Twitter account and your handle will become part of the URL of your TimeMaps, so use a professional account if you have one.

You'll then need to **create a copy of the TimeMapper template** spread-sheet. You can access it at www.tinyurl.com/timemapper Once there, click 'File' and then 'Make a copy' to create a copy in your own Google Drive.

Use a URL shortener like bit.ly or tinyurl to make it easier to share a spreadsheet with others, including students.

If you plan to **share the document with others**, adjust the permissions so they can edit the sheet. Give it a name you can remember and note the URL -- you'll need it for the next step!

Once you've created your spreadsheet, you'll need to **publish it to the web** so that TimeMapper can access it. Click 'File' and then 'Publish to the web' (below, top left) to open the publishing settings (below right). Then just hit 'Publish' and close the dialog box; ignore the URL provided under 'Link' on the popup.

You'll then want to **create your TimeMap**. Return to the TimeMapper website. As you're already logged in, you'll be taken to a dashboard with your existing timemaps. Click the green 'Create a new Timeline or TimeMap' button (above, bottom left) at the top of the dashboard.

On this page, paste the URL of your spreadsheet (from the URL bar in your browser), give your TimeMap a title and URL, set your date and display options, then hit '**Publish**'!

Entering your data & building your timemap

You'll **enter the data for your timemap on the Google spreadsheet** you built earlier. As you update the sheet, the information will be automatically added to your timemap, so you can check it out in real time if you have it open in another tab.

The TimeMapper template has a header row (Row 1) and a row of instructions (Row 2) (screenshot below left). These need to be deleted before you finish the project, but you can leave them in place to refer to as you work. To delete a row, right click on the row number and then select 'Delete row' (below right).

Fill in your spreadsheet referring to the instructions in Row 2 and our companion handout, *Understanding your TimeMap*. If you have multiple people collaborating on a single spreadsheet, color-coding the rows will help keep people writing over others' material.

The default setting for a Google spreadsheet published to the web is 'Republish automatically', which means that **your timemap will update automatically** whenever you update your spreadsheet. Keeping the timemap open in another tab (or on the classroom projector) will let you monitor your progress and the effects of your changes. When you're done, refresh the TimeMap and admire your work!

TimeMapper does not recognise Google's formatting, but you can include html in the **description** and **media caption** columns to add formatting and links to your TimeMap. You're most likely to want to use these four tags:

`<strong>bold</strong>` ➔ **bold**
`<i>italics</i>` ➔ *italics*
`<a href="yourlink">link text</a>` ➔ a hyperlink
`new<br>paragraph` ➔ new paragraph

If you want to learn more html, check out tutorials on Codecademy or W3Schools (free online) or Lynda (UT site license; use 'Organisational Login', then your EID).

Understanding your TimeMap

This document shows a screenshot of a completed sample timemap, with annotations indicating the relationship between the column titles in the source spreadsheet (top) and the final view (bottom.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	**Title**	**Start**	**End**	**Description**	**Web Page**	**Media**	**Media Caption**	**Media Credit**	**Tags**	**Place**	**Location**	**Source**	**Source URL**
	Muriel Gwenda Catheryn Binks	11/03/1989		Muriel Binks was arrested for public intoxication 50m from her home around 7pm on February 22, 1989, and transported to	http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/IndigLRes/rciadic/individual/brm_mgcb/4.html	https://scontent.xx.fbcdn.net/hphotos-xap1/v/t1.0-9/11659561_1609382105989475_114899416288 7808371_n.jpg?oh=3a144f9a3296ad15	Fabric being printed with traditional motifs at the Yarrabah Arts & Cultural Precinct. Binks was born in Yarrabah, at the	Yarrabah Arts & Cultural Precinct		2 Mcgowan Dr, Innisfail, 4860	-17.5288948,146.0297477		

Indigenous Deaths in Custody (RCADIC data) by **wisebeck** using **Time**Mapper

Timemap title (set in TimeMapper at setup)

Your Twitter handle; link to a list of your timemaps

'Media credit' - where you got the media

March 11, 1989

'**Start date**' (no end date on this single event)

Muriel Gwenda Catheryn Binks

'**Title**' - event name. This is a hyperlink to the URL entered under '**Web page**', which we've used instead of '**Source**'

Muriel Binks was arrested for public intoxication 50m from her home around 7pm on February 22, 1989, and transported to the Queensland Police Force's Innisfail watchhouse. The next morning, a fellow prisoner noticed that she looked sick but did not mention this to guards; at breakfast, guards noted that she seemed unwell but put this down to a hangover, conducting no further examination. Around 4pm, a guard noticed her lying down in her cell, semi-responsive, and determined that she required medical attention. A doctor arrived at the watchhouse at 4.40pm and described Binks as "nearly dead", immediately arranging her admission to Innisfail Hospital; due to the severity of her condition, she was transferred that night to Cairns Base Hospital and then, after further deterioration, to Townsville General Hospital on February 27. She died in intensive care there on March 11 of multiple organ failure brought on by pneumonia-related sepsis. The RCADIC found that if she had received treatment at her initial arrest, she may well have survived.

Fabric being printed with traditional motifs at the Yarrabah Arts & Cultural Precinct. Binks was born in Yarrabah, at the mission where her parents were placed after their removal from their families.

Yarrabah Arts & Cultural Precinct

Navigate backwards in time

'**Media**' - provide a URL for photos, video, etc which illustrate the event.

'**Media caption**' - information about your media. *Can include html.*

'**Description**' - your text about the event. *Can include html.*

Navigate forwards in time

The event title is also associated with the geoflag

'**Machine-readable location**' is auto-populated from the '**human-readable location**' field. This creates the geoflags which you can use to navigate your timemap.

The '**start date**' and '**end date**' fields create the time flags which you can use to navigate your timemap.

Shane Kenneth Atkinson · Lloyd James Boney · Edward Ca... · Donald Chatunalgi · ...llan Clark · Stan... · Edward Frederick Betts · Joyce Thelma Eg... · **Muriel Gwenda Catheryn Binks** · Bobby Bates · King Dixo... · Burralungi · Patrick Thomas Booth · Royal Commission... Aboriginal ...n Custody

1987 · 1988 · 1989 · **1990**

Collaborative timemaps with **TimeMapper**
for students

TimeMapper is a web-based tool for building interactive timemaps (timelines whose data points connect to a geographic map) from data entered in a Google spreadsheet. The timemaps can be accessed online or embedded in your own website.

In today's class, you'll work collaboratively to build a timemap documenting a series of events related to the theme of your course. You'll enter information into a shared spreadsheet, which will in turn populate an interactive online timeline and map.

If you want to build your own TimeMap from scratch, ask your instructor for a copy of our Getting Started with TimeMapper handout for full instructions!

Getting started

Open a web browser (we recommend Chrome or Firefox). Your instructor will provide you with two links or URLs for this exercise -- one will be a shared Google spreadsheet, which you'll edit over the course of the lesson, and one will be the Time-Map being built by your group. **Open both of these pages** in separate tabs.

Entering your data

Begin by **looking over the Google spreadsheet**. It contains a number of columns, each of which corresponds to some part of the timemap; you can see the connections between the columns and the timemap in our companion handout, *Understanding your TimeMap*. You will need to enter the information for your assigned event/s into the spreadsheet. As you and your classmates are all working in the same spreadsheet, it'll be helpful to 'stake your claim' on the rows you are editing by coloring them in using the formatting bar at the top of the spreadsheet. It doesn't matter what order data is entered in, so just pick some rows.

Start entering the data for your first event. Most of the categories are pretty self-explanatory. You'll need to **provide a title, date and location** for TimeMapper to locate your event. As you update the spreadsheet, the timemap will update automatically, so you can monitor your progress and check the effect of your changes in the timemap tab in real time.

Adding detail

Each timemap entry has two main components, the **description** (in the middle) which explains what happened during the event, and the **media** (on the left). (The map, on the right, is populated automatically from the 'Location' column of the spreadsheet.)

Adding media

TimeMapper supports a variety of media formats, including:

Photos	Direct URL, Flickr
Video	Direct URL, YouTube, Vimeo
Audio	Direct URL, Soundcloud

You can provide a direct link to the media (to get this for an image, right-click on an online image and select 'Copy image location') or, for Flickr, YouTube, Vimeo and Soundcloud, just link to the page the media is on. Paste the link into the 'Media' column. Make sure you credit the artist and provide a clear description of the media in the 'Media caption' column. This shows that you understand the relevance of the media, and makes it more accessible for your audience.

Writing a good description

The 'description' column contains the primary text for your event. Here, you'll want to provide an outline of the event or summary of the source you've used to understand it. A good description is clear and concise, and composed in your own words. As with the media, make sure you credit any sources you've used as you composed your description.

Place and location

You'll enter a place name or address in the 'Place' column and TimeMapper will automatically look up the latitude and longitude in the 'Location column'. You may want to check this against an online map, as it is not always accurate.

TimeMapper does not recognise Google's formatting, but you can include html in the **description** and **media caption** columns. You're most likely to use these four tags:

`<strong>bold</strong>` ➜ **bold**

`<i>italics</i>` ➜ *italics*

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