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Marketplace of Digital Historiography Methods and Tools

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Abstract (for dissemination)	In conversation with Holocaust researchers through events organized by EHRI it is apparent that many researchers have an interest in learning more about digital tools and methods but many researchers are not sure how to start learning about them. This deliverable seeks to help researchers discover more about tools that are available and demonstrate how they can be used in easy to understand language for those unused to experimenting with digital technology. This has been achieved through the creation of a series of online, illustrated guides.
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1 Introduction

In the framework of WP14, EHRI recognises there are a number of digital tools available that can assist Holocaust researchers and archivists in their work. EHRI has, therefore, created an online space and populated it with several digital tool guides, where interested parties can learn more about how to use some of these tools.

This deliverable provides background information about the goals and creation process of the digital tool guides. The guides themselves are available on the EHRI Digital Tools repository on GitHub: https://github.com/EHRI/ehri-data-analysis-tools

2 Digital Methods

2.1 Goals of the Digital Tool Guides

In conversation with researchers working in Holocaust and refugee studies, through events organized by EHRI, it became apparent that many researchers have an interest in learning more about digital tools and methods that they hear discussed at EHRI events, but that many researchers are not sure how to start learning about them. There can be many barriers to learning more about digital methods and some researchers reported that they felt intimidated by the prospect of learning about digital tools, or that they were embarrassed to ask what may seem like very basic questions when talking to a researcher more advanced in using digital tools. Researchers also reported not knowing where to look for more information on how to use digital tools or even find tools that would be useful to them in the first place. This deliverable seeks to help these researchers discover more about tools that are available and demonstrate how they can be used in easy to understand language for those unused to experimenting with digital technology.

2.2 Digital Tools Guides

These digital tool guides build on the work of deliverable *14.3 Open Analysis Toolset*, which focused on the creation of an eleven lesson interactive course to provide detailed access to a digital tool that will help Holocaust and refugee studies researchers to use their data.

EHRI has recognized a need not only for detailed courses that go into depth on the subject of digital tools, but also for providing very short, illustrated, introductory guides, that will capture the interest of audiences less experienced with the use of digital technology. In order to build on one of the central objectives of EHRI, to reach out to and support the research community and develop digital methods for Holocaust research, it is necessary to create resources for all types of digital user. To further support the growth of the EHRI network and EHRI Portal, it is desirable to engage new users and encourage them with the fact that it is possible to present their data in new ways by using digital tools. Many researchers who are outside of the digital humanities are unaware of new developments in the digital marketplace and of tools that require very little previous knowledge in order to transform the way their research is conducted. The guides created as part of this deliverable are intended to offer inspiration to

researchers to encourage them to experiment with using digital tools as part of their research, and to learn new skills.

The guides have been created for novice use and contain illustrations as well as step-by-step instructions on how to achieve results using a variety of digital tools. Once a researcher has engaged with a guide on digital tools that enables them to achieve something new with their data it is likely he or she will be encouraged to engage in further use of digital resources. These guides have, therefore, been created in order to showcase a variety of different techniques and methods that are relevant to researchers of the Holocaust. This is a dynamic resource that will continue to grow as more relevant tools are identified.

2.3 The Resource

The guides are available on the EHRI Digital Tools repository on GitHub: https://github.com/EHRI/ehri-data-analysis-tools

The guides take a cross-section of some of the most useful digital tools that are currently available and that can particularly benefit Holocaust researchers. This resource will continue to grow as more guides are created will help with research.

For the initial release 8 dedicated guides have been developed, covering the following topics:

- Extracting CSV data from the EHRI Search API
- Entity Matching
- Using OpenCV for Face Detection
- Importing tables from websites into spreadsheets
- Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL): A convenient way to run Linux tools on a Windows 10 system
- Using spatial data in Tableau
- Topic Modelling Experiments
- How to capture and reference a webpage in your research using Zotero

The key to each guide is breaking down how to use the digital tool in easy to understand language, and with screenshots demonstrating every step of the guide.

Below is a selection of screenshots from two of the guides:

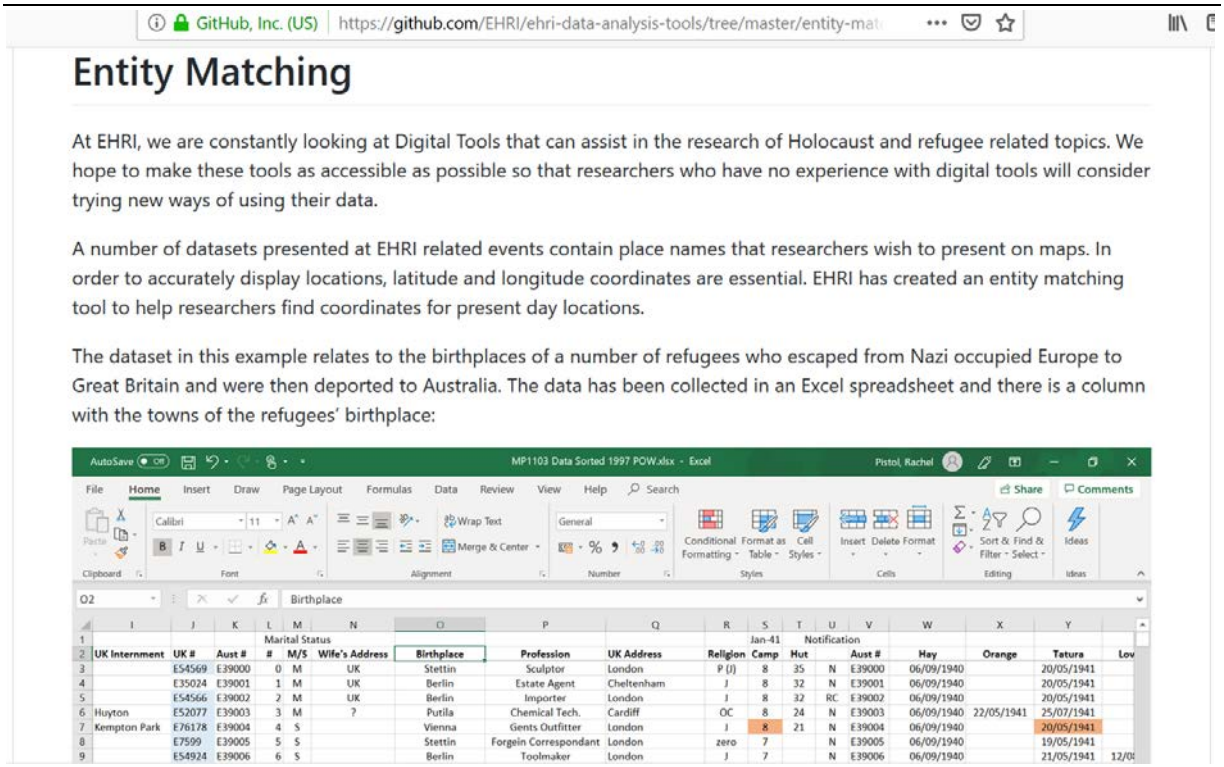

Fig. 1. Screenshot from the Entity Matching Guide

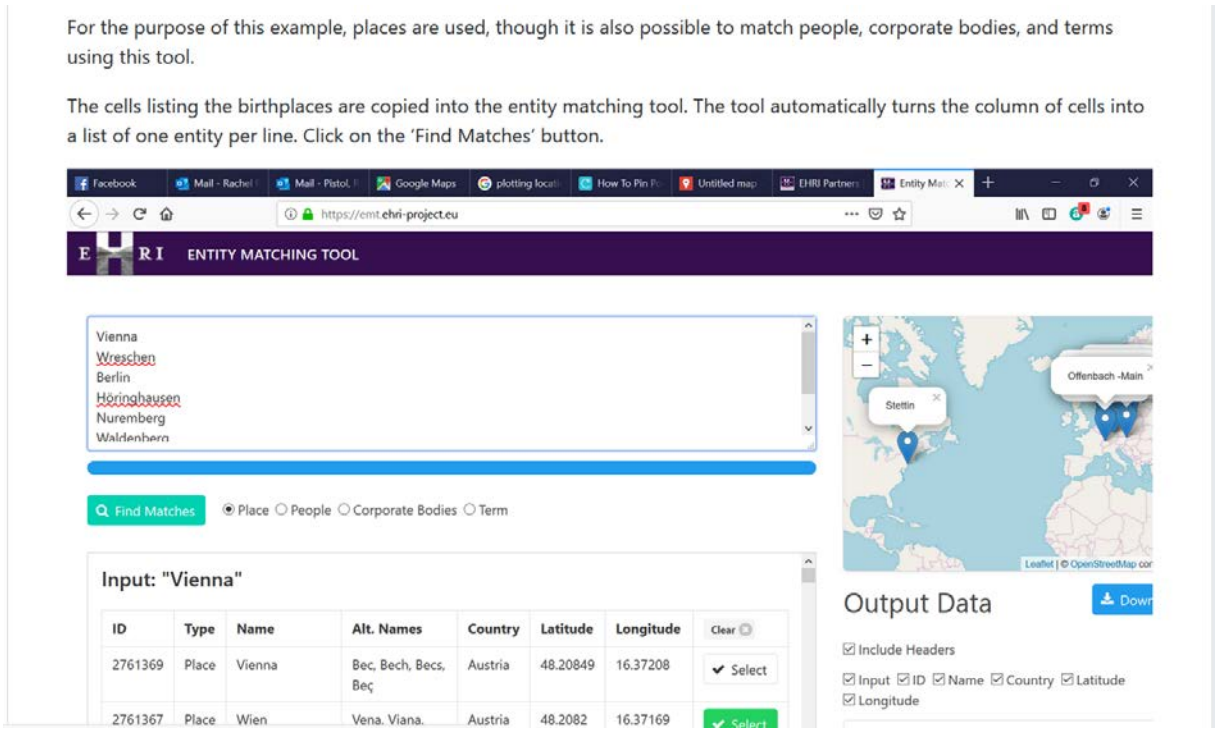

Fig. 2. Screenshot from the Entity Matching Tool guide

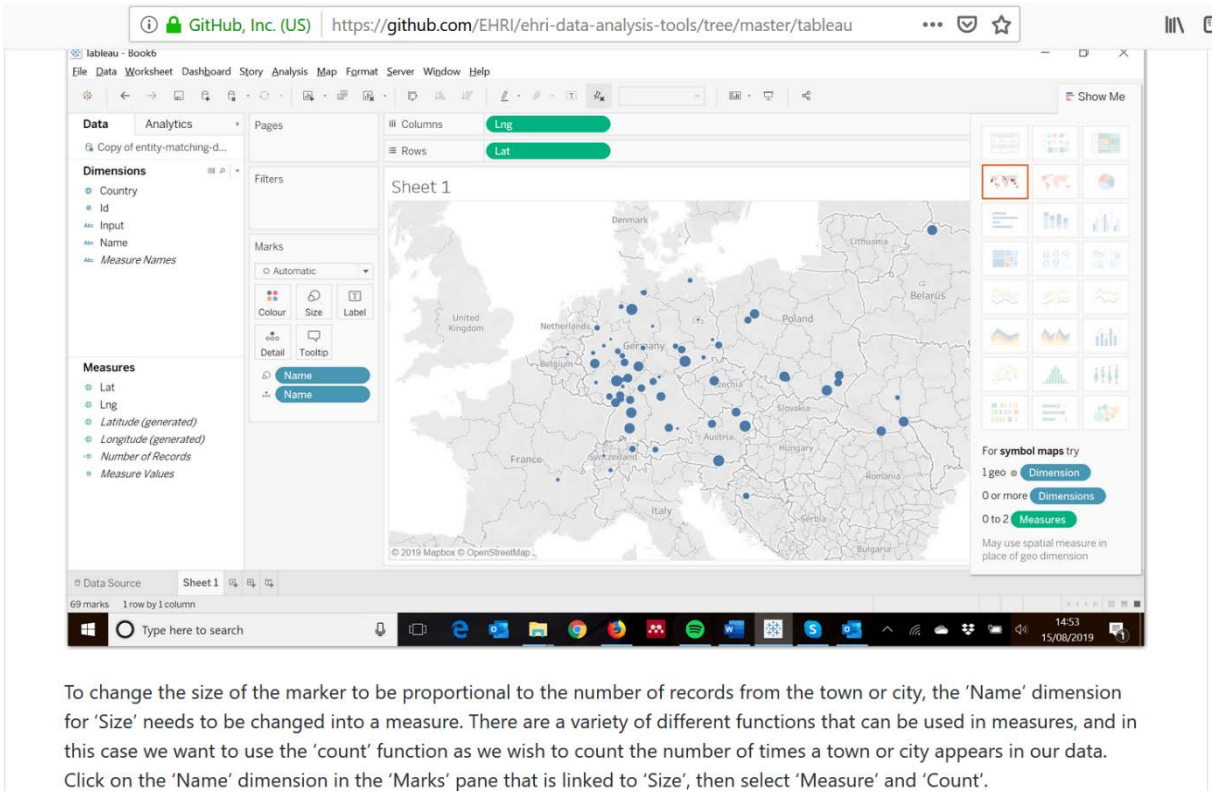

Fig. 3. Screenshot from the Tableau guide

2.4 Results

The guides will be disseminated through the EHRI network. Researchers have already expressed excitement over having step-by-step illustrated instructions to follow that will help them experiment with new methods of using their data. EHRI looks forward to seeing this resource continue to develop.