Are You Ready to Make a Map?

Part 1: Data Collection

START HERE

Do you have a general understanding of your subject?

No

Use your library to read some relevant articles, books, and encyclopedia entries on your topic.

Have you decided what specific subtopic you want to collect data on?

Yes

How does your data deal with time? Are you chronicling single events, a range of events, change over time?

No

Then Consider

What is the geographic base of your data? Are you collecting data based off of cities, addresses, states, countries?

Yes

Have you decided how to structure your data? Do you know what types of information you want to collect?

No

How else could you further classify your data? Do you want to add a column for season, geographic region, type of work, etc?

Have you included a column for citations? Every row needs a complete (and unique) citation.

Part 2: Data Cleaning

Check your work

Are your dates in a standardized format? I recommend MM/DD/YYYY

Is every cell complete? Have you added unknown to any cells where you couldn’t find the information?

Have you finished collecting data? Are you finished working with your source material? Don’t worry it’s okay if some columns and rows are empty!

Check your work

Does every row have a complete citation?

What is the purpose of each column in your dataset? How does each column translate into your visual map? Do you need to add any new columns for further specificity?

Have you checked for inconsistencies across categorical labels? (Midwest vs Mid-west, Sarah’s vs Sarahs)

Still need help?

See the How To Page of the Musical Geography site: https://musicalgeography.org/how-to/

See my video tutorial on data cleaning: https://bit.ly/3kTrjwz

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