

#VISUALIZATION

The Oxford English Dictionary defines #VISUALIZATION as the ability to form a mental picture as well as the actual process of creating something visible. As such, it covers the imagination as well as the production of a visual medium. Neither the reason nor the means of such an exercise are an issue. *

In the context of digital humanities, the ‘translation’ from one system of information or meaning into another to (re)present meaning seems the central point of #VISUALIZATION.

The definitions contributed by the mixed methods projects agree that “(t)he graphical, non-syntactic presentation of facts and relationships can help to facilitate a better understanding of complex information.” They point out that there is a “reduction of information aspects [necessary] to achieve a meaningful clarity” (ArchiMedial) and that the #VISUALIZATION is not a simple by-product of data collection but the result of various translation efforts and thus a consciously designed statement (ANCI). As such, the criteria and focus chosen for the visualizations have a critical impact on the way the information is communicated finally and they should foster the interaction concerning #MODELLING as well. In addition, the interpretations derived from the #VISUALIZATION need inclusion into source critique.

This is not so crucial for projects that operate with visual media to start with, but for those for which the transfer of non-visual material into visual information is a major benefit of applying digital humanities: “Historical research with a visual dimension wins new perspectives in terms of new empirical insights and new analytical questions. Especially the compilation and visualization of data from very different sources enables new avenues of research not possible by the linear narrative or argumentation. Visualization of space and time enables the historian to see his/her data in a way he/she should not narrate them. It also provokes new research problems and new problems of representation as visualizations become facts of their own. More than the linguistic representation the visual representation may be read uncritically as given fact. It may also cause unwanted interpretations by the viewer which need to be taken into account” (DhiMu).

* “visualization, n.” in: *Oxford English Dictionary (OED)*, first published 1920; most recently modified version published online December 2021, <https://www.oed.com/> [accessed: 20.05.2022].

Title: ArchiMediaL: Developing Post-Colonial Interpretations of Built Form through Heterogeneous Linked Digital Media

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Corpus: Photographs, prints, drawing of architecture and built environment from Amsterdam city Archive. Google and Mapillary street view images.

Field of Study: Architectural history, Urban studies, Art history, Computer Vision

Institution: TU Delft, VU Amsterdam, Dortmund University of Technology, HafenCity Universität Hamburg

Technology: Artificial intelligence, Linked Data

Methods: Computer vision, deep learning, image recognition, similarity learning, cross-domain retrieval, crowdsourcing

Tools: ArchiMediaL Annotator