

Digital storytelling in DH practice to encourage civil participation and reconstruction of the historical narrative

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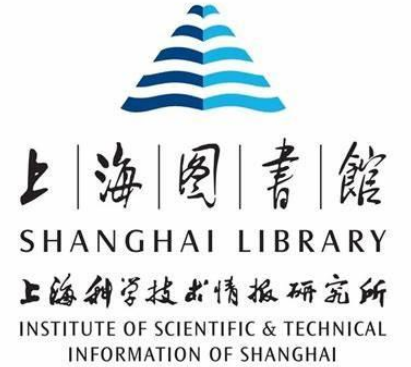
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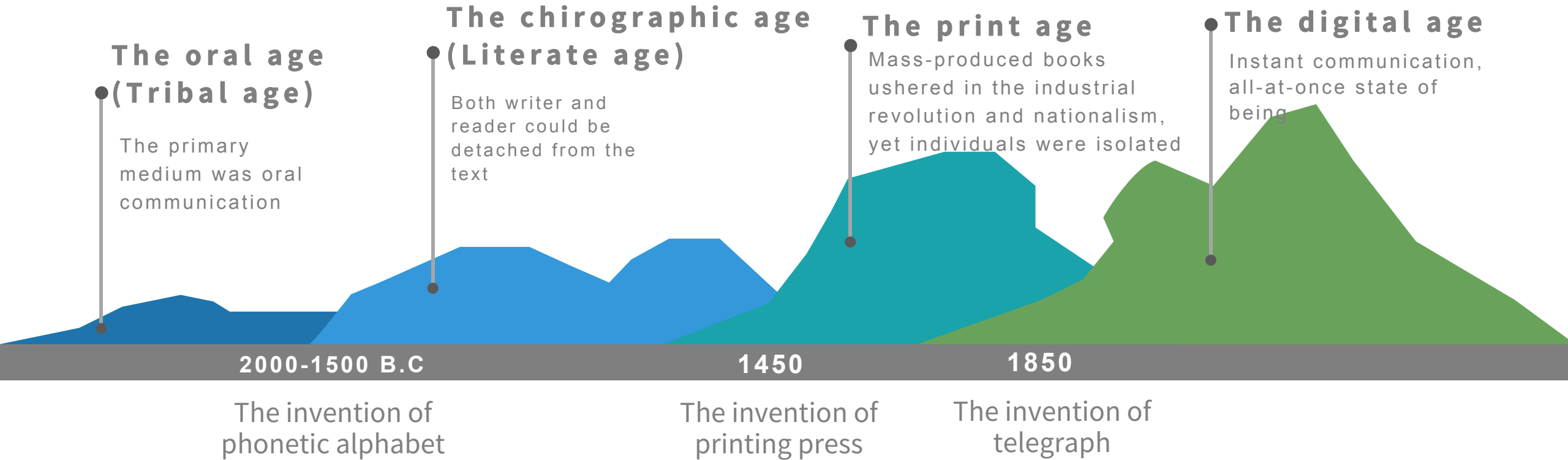
The logo for the DARIAH Annual Event 2022: Storytelling, featuring a stylized white flower icon and the text 'DARIAH ANNUAL EVENT 2022: STORYTELLING'.

May 31 - June 3, 2022: Athens, Greece (Hybrid Event)

Session Outline

- The theory of digital storytelling (DS)
 - background, definition
 - Crossover of DS and digital humanities (DH)
 - the possibilities of using DS as a guiding concept and an approach in DH
 - the common goals of the two
 - Shanghai memory project
 - research subject
 - research methods
 - how DS is applied in the project
 - future work
- 

Marshall McLuhan's Map of the History of Media



From storytelling to digital storytelling

- Storytelling: the interactive art of using **words and actions** to reveal the **elements and images** of a story while encouraging the listener's imagination.¹
 - Single-modal
 - One-way output
- Digital storytelling: a movement or method for creating, expressing, interpreting, and sharing stories and personal experiences using **digital tools**, has been viewed as a "**democratization** of culture." (Clarke & Adam, 2011)
 - Multi-modal
 - Initiative, interactive, democratize
- It draws attention from the mainstream to the marginalized, the minority, the overlooked and forgotten.



¹ <https://storynet.org/what-is-storytelling/>

The theory of digital storytelling

- Backdrop:

- The "digital turn" (Noiret, 2018)
- Web 2.0 (UGC)
- Evolution of media

- Representative studied fields:

- Media studies: audio-visual story creation using digital media (Lambert, 2018)
- Public history: as a way of collecting historical materials from ordinary people (Burgess & Klæbe, 2009)
- Pedagogy: an effective means of enhancing the interaction between students and teachers, and helping students understand important concepts and knowledge (Robin, 2008)

Examples:

- [The COVID-19 pandemic story by Imperial College, London](#)
- [Bristol Stories](#)
- [University of Houston- Educational use of digital storytelling](#)

Common ground of DS & DH

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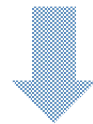
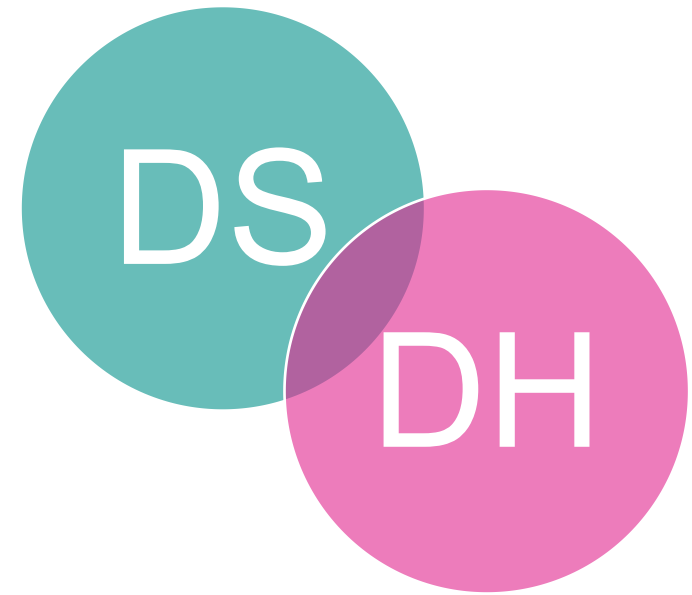
DS provides new opportunities for DH

- encourage dialogue
- make the world comprehensible
- discover new ways of interaction with the support of digital tools (Barber, 2016)

2

DS can serve as a bridge between cultural heritage and DH

- space and time as shared concepts (Münster et al., 2019)



A great potential exists for DH practitioners to employ GLAM collections to reconstruct knowledge and cultural heritage, discover hidden knowledge, and support knowledge creation through the lens of digital storytelling.

Shanghai Memory: A Journey from Wukang Road

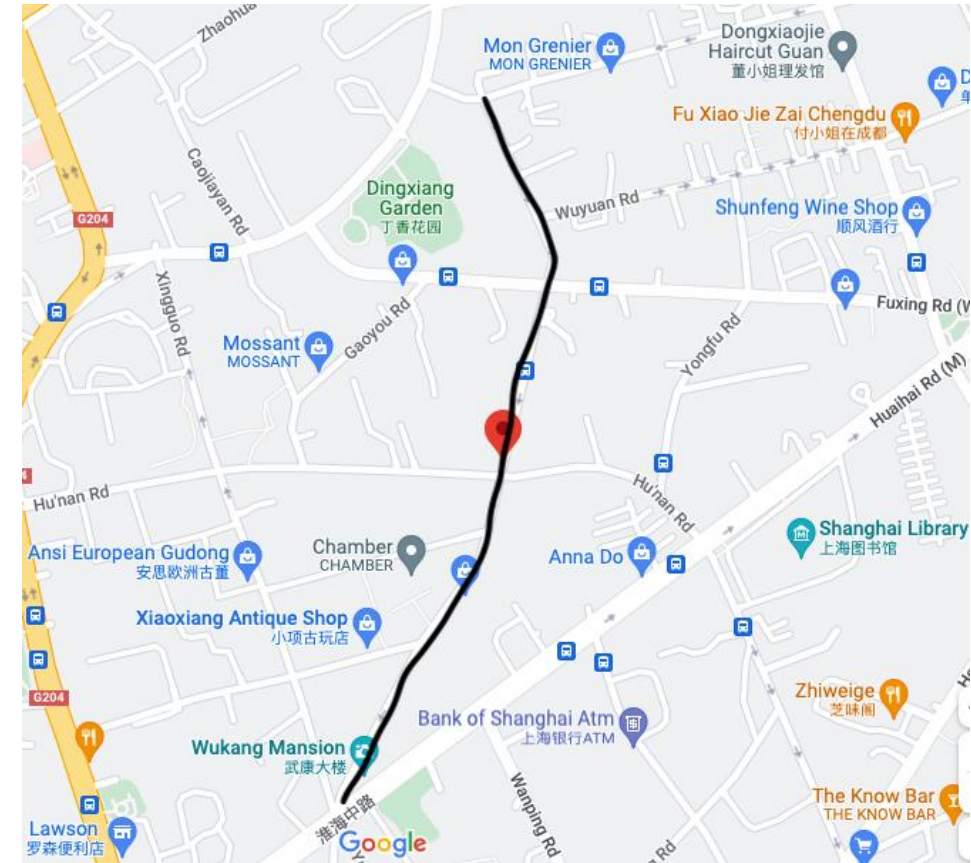
- Length: 1.183 km
- a residential street in the former French Concession
- more than 30 celebrities lived here
- Historical buildings presenting the "old Shanghai"



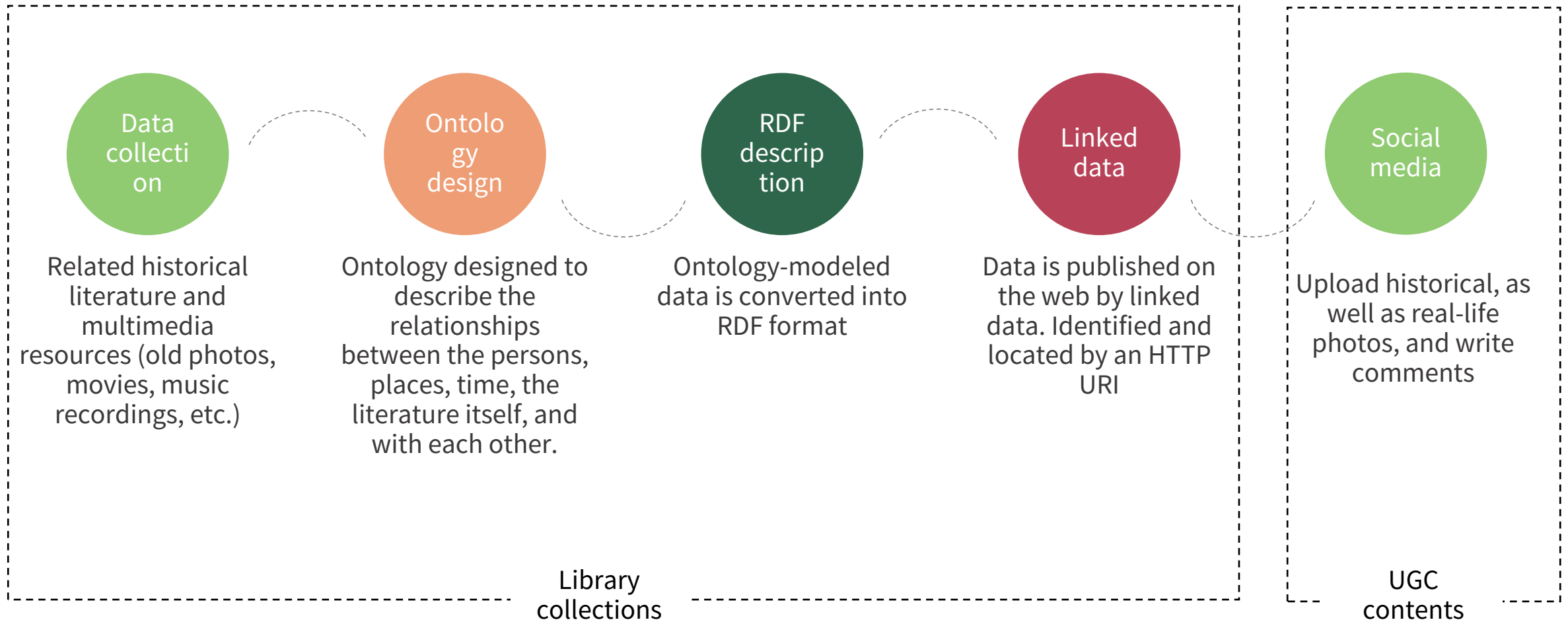
Wukang Mansions



Former Residence of Bajin

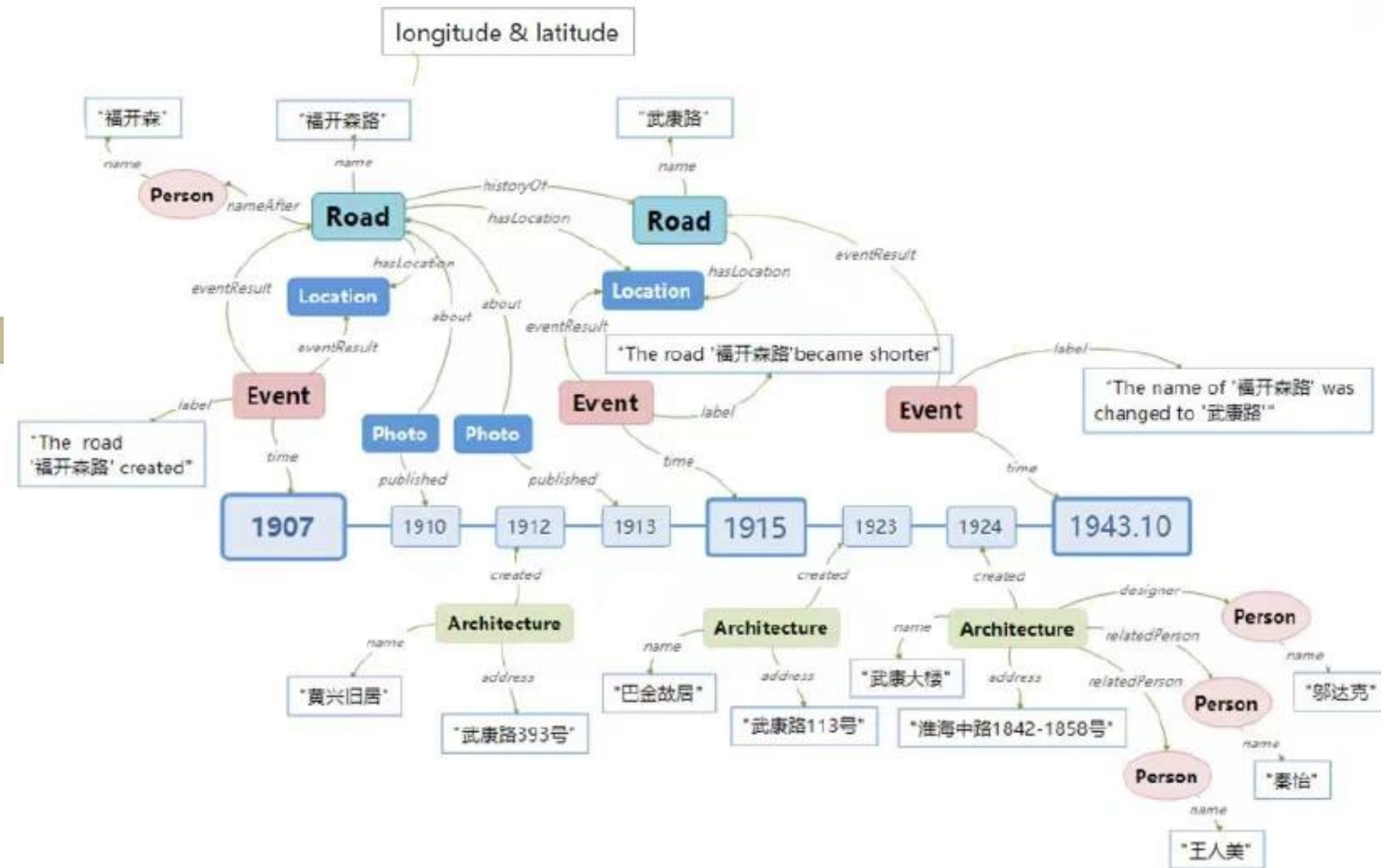


Research process and research methods



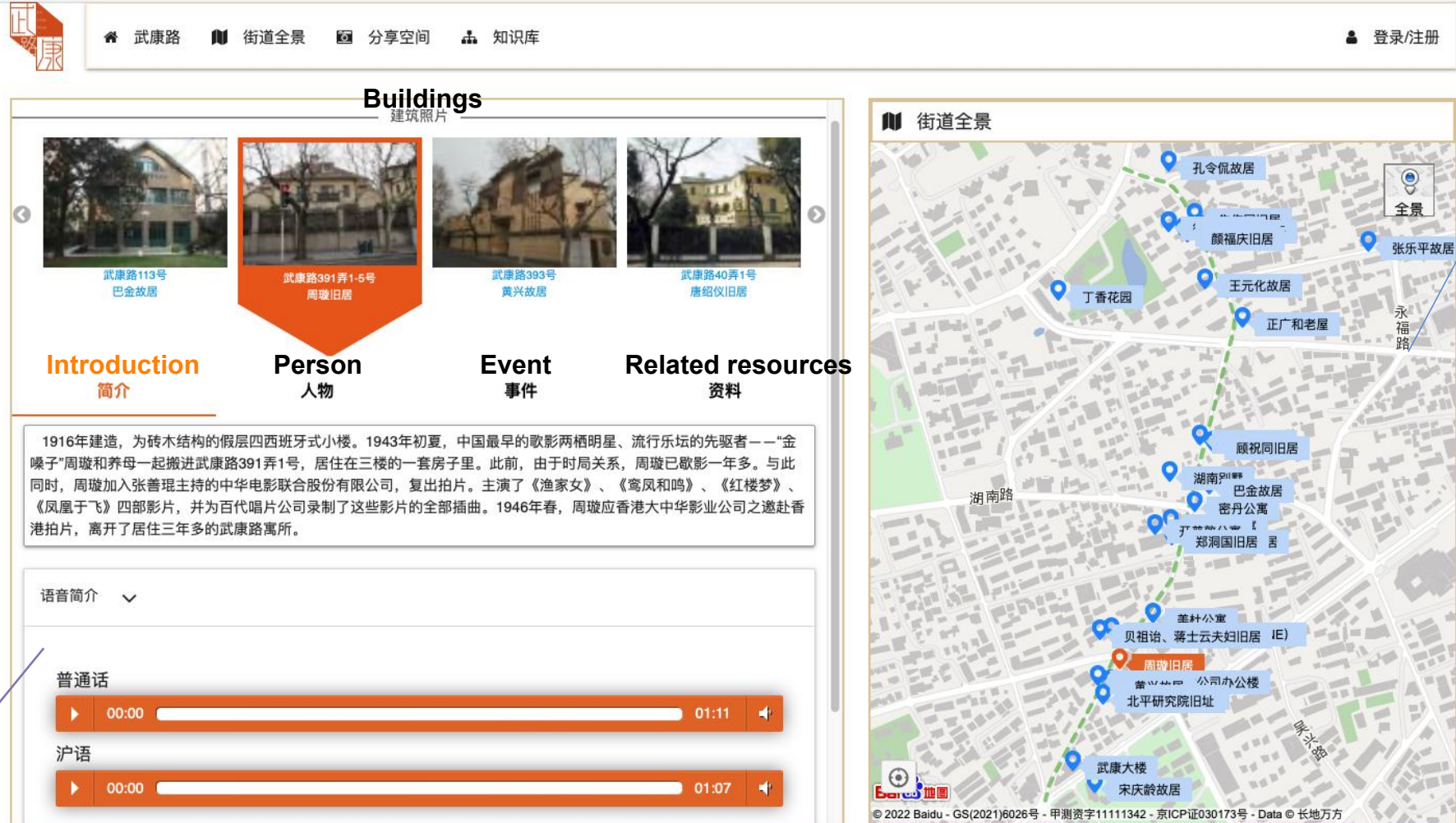
Research process and research methods

- Shanghai memory ontology
- Entities organized by time



Xia, C., Wang, L., & Liu, W. (2021). Shanghai memory as a digital humanities platform to rebuild the history of the city. *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, 36(4), 841–857.

Project website



The screenshot shows the 'Project website' interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links: 武康路, 街道全景, 分享空间, 知识库, and a login/register button. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Buildings', features a grid of building photos with labels like '武康路113号 巴金故居' and '武康路391弄1-5号 周璇旧居'. Below this is a section for 'Introduction' (简介) with a text block about the building's history and a '语音简介' (Audio Introduction) section with buttons for '普通话' (Mandarin) and '沪语' (Shanghaiese). The right column, titled '街道全景' (Street Panorama), shows a map of the area with various historical sites marked, including '孔令侃故居', '顾祝同旧居', and '武康大楼'. A blue box on the right points to the map with the text 'Map presenting spatial information'. A blue box on the left points to the audio section with the text 'Audio introduction in mandarin & Shanghaiese'.

Website functions



The screenshot displays the website wkl.library.sh.cn, which is dedicated to the Wu Kang Road (武康路) area. The interface includes a top navigation bar with links for '武康路' (Wu Kang Road), '街道全景' (Street Panorama), '分享空间' (Share Space), and '知识库' (Knowledge Base). A user login/register button is also present.

The main content area is divided into two primary sections:

- 建筑照片 (Building Photos):** This section features a carousel of four photographs of historical buildings along Wu Kang Road. The photos are labeled with their addresses and names: '武康路113号 巴金故居' (Wu Kang Road 113, Ba Jin's Former Residence), '武康路391弄1-5号 周璇旧居' (Wu Kang Road 391 Alley 1-5, Zhou Xuan's Former Residence), '武康路393号 黄兴故居' (Wu Kang Road 393, Huang Xing's Former Residence), and '武康路40弄1号 鹿绍仪旧居' (Wu Kang Road 40 Alley 1, Lu Shaoyi's Former Residence).
- 街道全景 (Street Panorama):** This section provides a map view of the Wu Kang Road area. The map is overlaid with numerous blue location pins, each representing a historical site. These sites include: '孔令侃故居' (Kong Lingkan's Former Residence), '熊福庆旧居' (Xiong Fuqing's Former Residence), '张乐平故居' (Zhang Leping's Former Residence), '王永化故居' (Wang Yonghua's Former Residence), '正广和老屋' (Zheng Guang He Old House), '顾祝同旧居' (Gu Zhutong's Former Residence), '湖南路' (Hunan Road), '巴金故居' (Ba Jin's Former Residence), '密丹公寓' (Midan Apartment), '郑润国旧居' (Zheng Run Guo's Former Residence), '董仲公室' (Dong Zhong Gongshi), '贝祖诒、蒋士云夫妇旧居' (Bei Zuyi and Jiang Shiyun's Former Residence), '衡山旧居' (Hengshan Former Residence), '公司办公楼' (Company Office Building), '北平研究院旧址' (Former Site of the Beijing Academy of Sciences), '武康大楼' (Wu Kang Building), and '宋庆龄故居' (Song Qingling's Former Residence).

Below the building photos, there is a '简介' (Introduction) section for the Wu Kang Road 391 Alley 1-5 location. It provides a detailed historical account: '1916年建造，为砖木结构的假层四西班牙式小楼。1943年初夏，中国最早的歌影两栖明星、流行乐坛的先驱者——“金嗓子”周璇和养母一起搬进武康路391弄1号，居住在三楼的一套房子里。此前，由于时局关系，周璇已歇影一年多。与此同时，周璇加入张善琨主持的中华电影联合股份有限公司，复出拍片。主演了《渔光曲》、《鸾凤和鸣》、《红楼梦》、《凤凰于飞》四部影片，并为百代唱片公司录制了这些影片的全部插曲。1946年春，周璇应香港大中华影业公司之邀赴香港拍片，离开了居住三年多的武康路寓所。'

At the bottom of the page, there is a '语音简介' (Audio Introduction) section. It includes two audio players: one for '普通话' (Mandarin) and another for '沪语' (Shanghai Dialect). Both players show a progress bar and a duration of 01:11 and 01:07 respectively.

Video demonstration

<http://wkl.library.sh.cn>

How DS is understood here

Studied field	Digital tools used	Characteristics	Goal	Focus
Media studies, public history, pedagogy	Multimedia technology (video, animation, image, sound, etc.), new media platform	Focus on marginalized people, personal and community records collection, culture democratization	Sources of material in humanities and social science research, as a complement to other research materials	Creation
DH	Knowledge organization methods, knowledge graphs, artificial intelligence, etc.	Integrity of knowledge, culture reconstruction, knowledge organization and discovery	Presentation and dissemination of humanistic research process and outcome	Research

Fu, Y., Zhang, Y., Liu, W., & Zhu, Q. 'Digital Storytelling as a Digital Humanities Method: the Status Quo and the Potential.' Library and Information Service (in press).

To close

Impact of the project:

- Brings together many aspects of memory construction as part of a comprehensive programme of heritage management
- Helps the reconstruction of the city history
- Public library as an advertisement platform and attract citizens
- Working with universities, and getting continuous feedback from researchers and students

Future work:

- DS theory exploration in DH field and practice
 - The evaluation of DS in DH as part of the research
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- Xia, C., Wang, L., & Liu, W. (2021). Shanghai memory as a digital humanities platform to rebuild the history of the city. *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities*, 36(4), 841–857.

Thank you!

- Shanghai memory website: <http://memory.library.sh.cn>
- A journey from Wukang Road website: <http://wkl.library.sh.cn>
- Digital Humanities Platform of Shanghai Library (Demo):
<https://dhc.library.sh.cn>

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