

Maine Arctic Trail Map and Crocker Land Expedition Online

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The Maine Arctic Trail Map project aims to digitize an existing paper map showing places in Maine that are connected to the Arctic. The Crocker Land Expedition Online project presents a set of collections and about the expedition online and available to the public. These two projects I worked on both involve an extensive amount of mapping and designing. They are both based on existing sets of data and information, mapped and developed into interactive Story Maps or Web Apps, and presented on websites with more relevant information. I used Google Map and ArcGIS online for mapping, Wordpress and Photoshop for website design.

The Maine Arctic Trail Map is a brochure distributed in the Peary-MacMillan Arctic Museum that marks museums, parks, shipyards, and other venues that have an Arctic heritage in terms of their collection, natural environment, etc. However, it is inconvenient to navigate with the paper brochure. I first conducted more research about Maine's Arctic heritage and local history concerning Arctic exploration, after which I wrote or revised a description of each venue and added photos. I then created a website powered by Wordpress, filing each venue under its category and region. I mapped all 31 locations on a Google Map, and embedded it onto the website. From the embedded map, readers can click on the location, navigate themselves to the location, or be directed to the page with a description, images, address, the website of the venue, and a location link to Google Map. This website with Google Map embed is convenient for driving and is mobile friendly. Then, I mapped the information with ArcGIS Online, which allows more complex pop-ups and visual designs. From the map on ArcGIS Online, I developed a Web Application with a map on the right, and images of venues on the left filed under tabs according to the region they are in. The Web App provides more information on one page and is suitable for tablets, touch screens, and computers.

The Crocker Land Expedition Online project compiles a great amount of resources about the expedition led by Donald B. MacMillan from 1913 to 1917. I first created a website powered by Wordpress and uploaded the scanned glass lantern slides, link to journals, records, publications, and collections in other institutions. With the abundant primary source materials such as journals and photographs housed in the museum, I gained an understanding of this very complex endeavor. Because the purpose of this website is to make materials regarding the Crocker Land Expedition available to the public and researchers, I made an effort to make it more comprehensible and educational by writing a glossary of jargons and terms that may not be familiar to people, and building a timeline that marks the major events on the expedition. In this process, I tried incorporate the perspectives of the Inughuit guides and companions, who were imperative to the expedition. The glossary includes the historical syllabics spelling and the roman ornithography of Inughuit names and terms. The timeline is a narrative that includes both the American expedition and the indigenous people who had lived in the harsh conditions of the Arctic long before exploration endeavors. The Crocker Land expedition timeline is displayed using the Story Map platform of ArcGIS. Each event is illustrated with photographs and/or a map. The timeline Story Map is linked on the Crocker Land Expedition website and tells the story of the expedition. Thus the entire website is a great resource to both the public and researchers interested in the expedition.

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