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Title: Digital storytelling in DH practice to encourage civil participation and reconstruction of the vernacular history of Shanghai (words 250)

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Digital storytelling, understood as a movement or method for creating, expressing, and sharing information using digital tools and new media forms, has been viewed as a “democratization of culture” (Clarke & Adam, 2011). It draws attention away from the mainstream and gives a voice to the marginalized, the minority, the overlooked and forgotten.

This presentation examines how digital storytelling is used as a critical research method in the DH project *A Journey from Wukang Road* at Shanghai Library. Taking Wukang Road and its associated buildings as the framework, this project uses knowledge organization methods and linked data to extract relevant narrative elements and related details about people, events, activities, and historical changes from the appropriate library resources (newspapers, photos, books, maps, videos) (Xia et al., 2021). By organizing cultural resources based on their narrative elements, the evolutionary history can be reconstructed and decolonized with a more complete and clear story line. It engages citizens by having them upload photos and personal accounts of their memories, giving space for the endangered Shanghai vernacular dialect, restoring the rich tapestry of multilingual voices from the community, challenging the established historiography, and sociopolitical bias (Noble, 2018).

Digital storytelling in this project emphasizes "reconstruction" to integrate, relate, and restore existing resources with the affordances of digital tools, encouraging diverse expression, sharing, and stimulating civil creativity. It is also collective behaviour that discusses the perspectives on history and arouses public engagement, particularly in consideration of Shanghai cultural identity in this former home to the colonial powers.

References

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