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INFO 247: Information Visualization and Presentation
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Local Ground

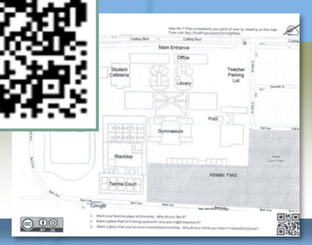
A Platform for Collecting Local Geo-Spatial Knowledge

Local Ground combines the best of paper and pixels by using paper maps to capture rich qualitative data, creating digital versions of the hand-drawn annotations, then importing the annotations to a digital map. Using paper maps instead of GPS devices makes the data collection process cheap, portable, and, most importantly, easy to learn. Digitizing the data then allows planners and community members to collate and analyze the data with our user interface, and our visualization tools enable them to share their findings with key decision makers.

Local Ground is Joyce Tsai and Sarah Van Wart's final project for their masters degree. This portion of the project deals with how to visualize the data we have collected.

The Local Ground System

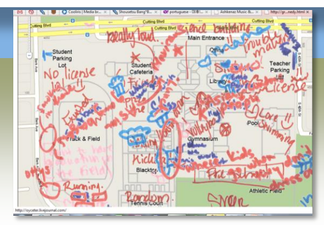
1. Print — Zoom to location; Print bar-coded map



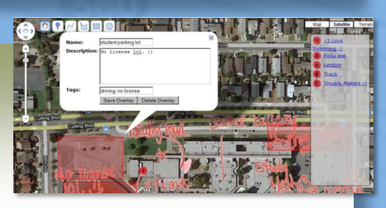
2. Draw — Annotate with images and descriptions

3. Scan — Scan, fax, or photograph map

4. Upload — Our system geo-references and digitizes the annotations



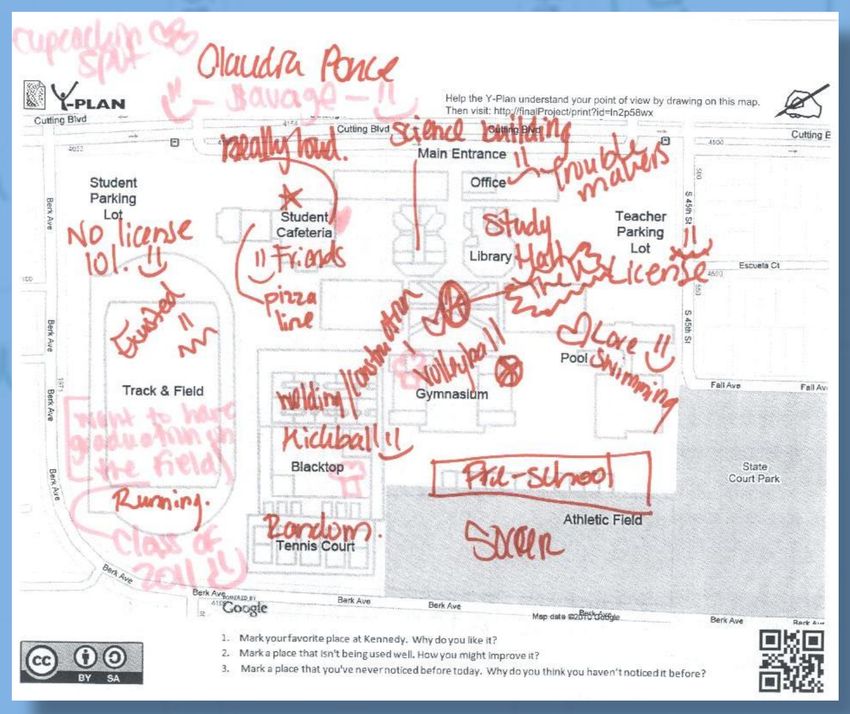
5. Tag — Supplement hand-drawn data with digital metadata



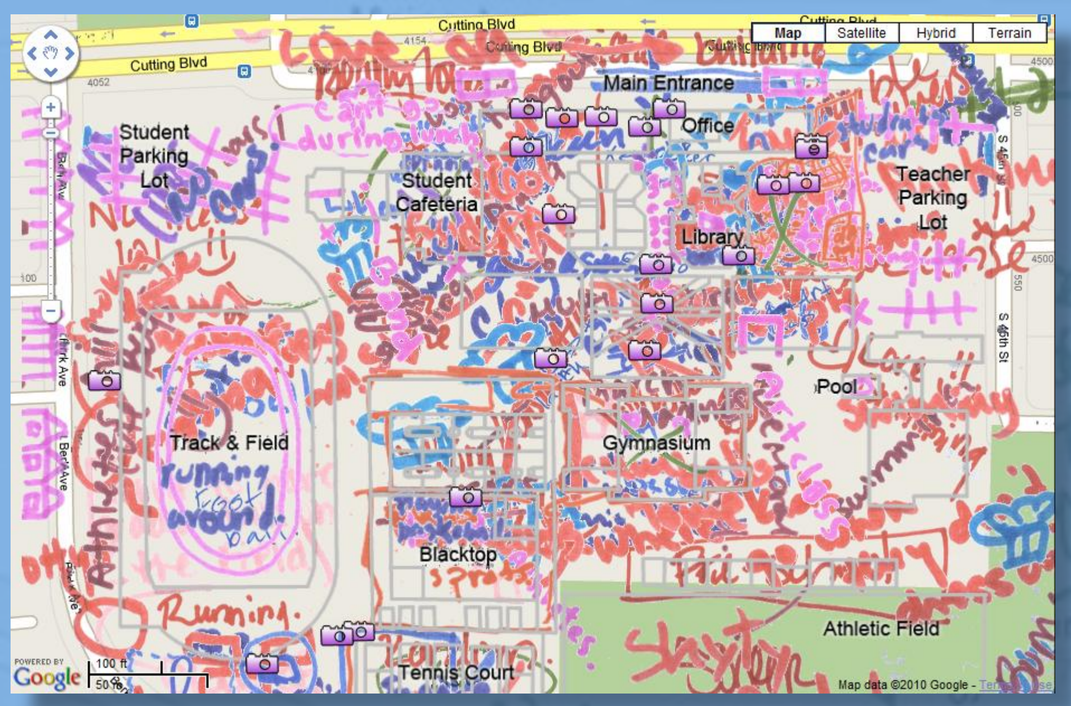
6. Analyze — Uncover trends and patterns

For more: localground.org

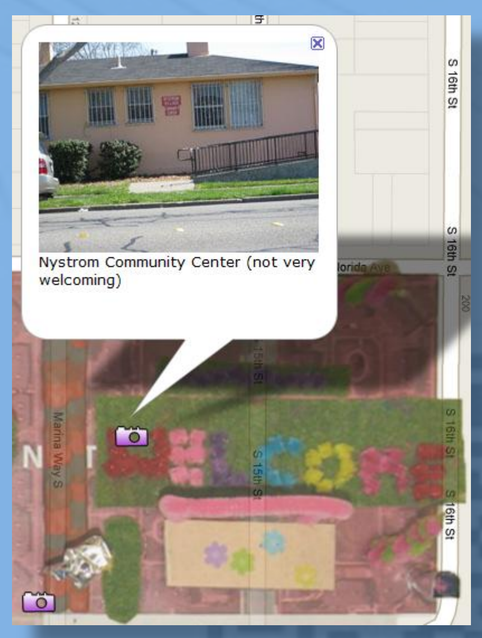
You can make sense of one map…



… but what do you do with many?



… or contrast present and future?



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