

CRAFTING DIGITAL NARRATIVES WITH SCALAR

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1. WHAT IS SCALAR?

An overview

“

Scalar is a free, open source authoring and publishing platform ... [that] enables users to assemble media from multiple sources and juxtapose them with their own writing in a variety of ways, with minimal technical expertise required.

WAYS YOU MIGHT USE SCALAR

- ◆ Supplement a book project
- ◆ Publish an open access article or book
- ◆ Write a media-rich essay or thesis

**If *caa.reviews*
were
*performance.reviews***

Introduction: “If *caa.reviews* were *performance.reviews*?”



Audience performing in the public warm-up with Boris Charmatz in Turbine Hall (Level 0) at the Tate Modern, May 15 and 16, 2015
(screenshot from Tate Modern's live-stream of the performances)

**Performing
Archive:
Curtis + “The
Vanishing
Race”**

Vol. 1 Illustrations

Media Gallery



Anatomy of a Scalar Book



Pages



Media



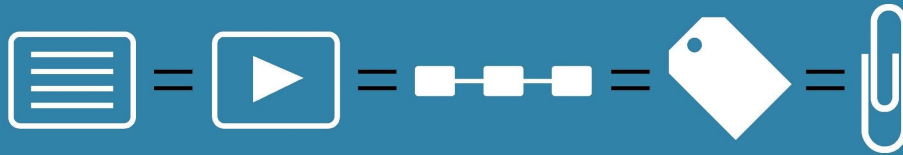
Paths



Annotations



Tags



Page



Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. ~~Donec nunc.~~ Nunc elit leo, pulvinar nonummy, fringilla non, fermentum et, nunc. Sed sit amet leo. Proin nisl nisi, interdum congue, fringilla ut, sagittis vel, lorem. Nullam mauris. Integer metus lorem, fermentum vitae, pellentesque eget, luctus blandit, mi. Vestibulum tempus, tellus eu tempor incididunt, purus nulla iaculis erat, sit amet pretium ligula augue nec libero. Phasellus sit amet arcu ac diam, pharetra tempus, Aenean lobortis, eros sit amet gravida elementum, lacus nisl dignissim arcu, a luctus tortor ante a augue. Quisque fermentum ipsum vitae magna. Curabitur metus. Integer feugiat, lacus dapibus porta ornare, tellus eros scelerisque nunc, quis sodales. ~~Donec~~ elit sit amet ante. Donec gravida, lorem ut rutrum iaculis, tortor neque molestie lectus, dictum interdum mi est sit amet turpis. Nunc scelerisque elit.



2.

WORKSHOP PLAN

Getting started

WORKSHOP PLAN

- ◆ Create Scalar book
- ◆ Import media and content
- ◆ Craft alternative narrative structures
- ◆ Add design & visualization elements

scalar.usc.edu/scalar/

Sign up

scalar.usc.edu

Sign in

3.

ADDING CONTENT

<http://scalar.usc.edu/works/guide2/working-with-media>

<http://scalar.usc.edu/works/guide2/working-with-content>

ADDING CONTENT

- ◆ Import some media files
- ◆ Annotate media files
- ◆ Create a new page
- ◆ Embed media files and annotations
- ◆ Experiment with layouts

CREATING TAGS

- ◆ Create a new page
- ◆ Give your tag a title
- ◆ Under Relationships, select “Tag”
- ◆ Select the items that it tags

4.

CONNECTING CONTENT

<http://scalar.usc.edu/works/guide2/working-with-structure>

HOME

ABOUT

EVENTS

CONTACT

PEOPLE

PROJECT

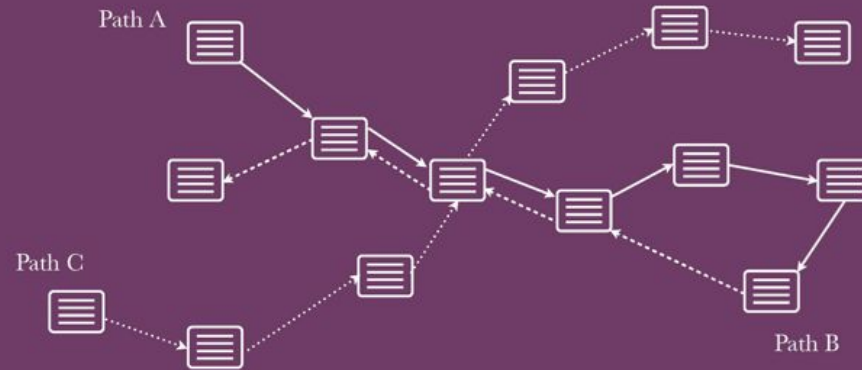


NEWS

HISTORY

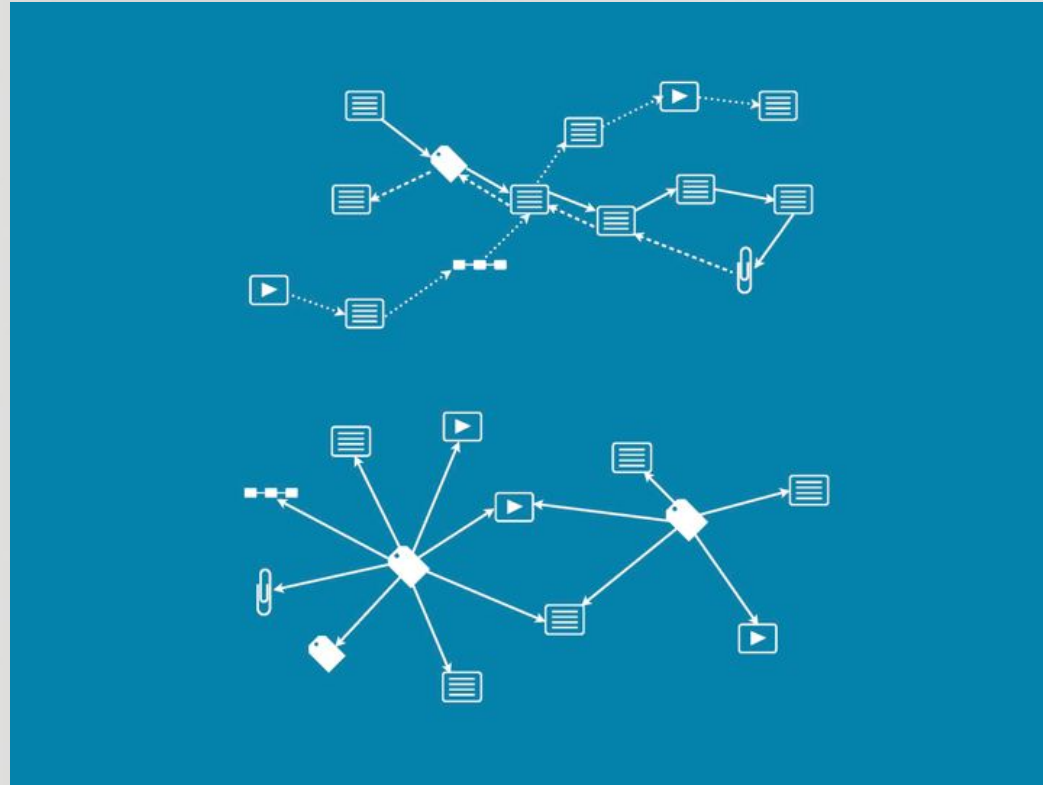
*Common
navigation*

Paths



*Scalar's
navigation*

*Any item
can be on
a path*

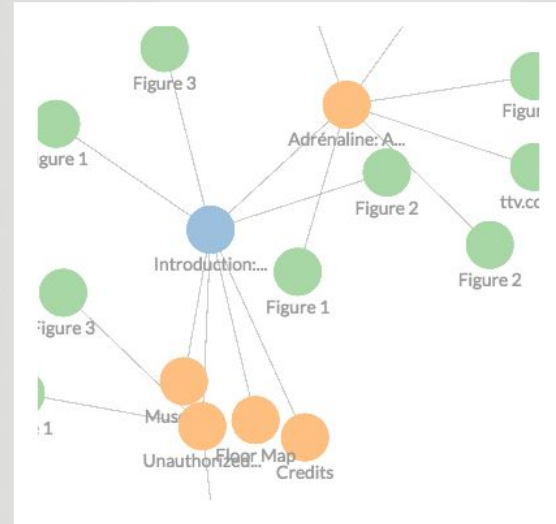


5. DESIGN & VISUALIZE

<http://scalar.usc.edu/works/guide2/visualizations>

VISUALIZE RELATIONSHIPS

Scalar provides many ways of visualizing the materials and connections you've made in your book.



VISUALIZE RELATIONSHIPS

- ◆ Hover over compass icon (top left)
- ◆ Select “Visualizations”
- ◆ Select a visualization type
- ◆ Explore your connections!

DESIGNING YOUR BOOK

- ◆ Create a book cover:
 - ◆ Go to your site's home page
 - ◆ Select edit (pencil icon)
 - ◆ Under “layout” select “book splash”
 - ◆ Under “styling” select “key image” & add your desired image

DESIGNING YOUR BOOK continued

- ◆ Go to Dashboard (wrench icon)
- ◆ Give your book a subtitle
- ◆ Add a thumbnail image
- ◆ Explore other fields and tabs

LET'S REVIEW

Design Book

Good design adds to the authority and accessibility of your site.

Add Media

With Scalar you can import media found online, from partners, or on your computer.

Annotate Media

Adding rich, scholarly and creative annotations to media enriches readers' experiences.

Craft Pages

Scalar offers many different ways of displaying the relationships between text and media.

Connect Objects

Scalar allows for traditional and non-traditional structures of navigating content that better reflect scholarly arguments.

Visualize Connections

Using JavaScript's D3 library, Scalar builds in several different ways of visualizing your content.

GET HELP

Scalar 2 Guide

Free Webinars

Scalar Forums

DH Questions & Answers



CREDITS

Special thanks to all the people who made and released these resources for free:

- ◆ Presentation template by SlidesCarnival
- ◆ Photographs by Unsplash