Beyond Driving Directions: Teaching with Google Maps

Goals of this workshop:
- Explain the basics of Google Maps
- Provide examples and explanation of easy ways to create custom maps
- Provide examples and uses for advanced mashups

The Basics

The basic Google Maps application allows you to:
- Search for an address
- Change views
- Plot out driving directions
- View live traffic
- Revise routes and drag directions

For more on these features: http://www.google.com/intl/en_us/help/maps/tour/
Beyond Driving Directions

Things you can do with Google MyMaps feature:

• Create placemarks, lines and shapes
• Embed photos and video
• Share your custom maps
• Load the maps into Google Earth


Suggestions for teaching: ask students to create interactive, map-based stories; identify major land features; have students use GPS devices and/or Google Maps to collect coordinate data to add placemarks and details; etc.

Create a historical timeline/tour. Ex: Queen’s Jazz Trail
http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=10360652830919186843.000435485af434abd3d2b

Track a presidential candidate. Ex: The John Edwards Mashup
http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&hl=en&msa=0&msid=1106863520194435008.00043649e12b7af5f3451&ll=37.09024,-96.811523&spn=23.999283,58.710938&z=5&om=1

More Mashups

Google Mapplets provide additional content that can be added to My Maps:
http://code.google.com/apis/maps/documentation/mapplets/

Useful mapplets include: an area calculator, a distance measurement tool, real estate searches, a real-time earthquake viewer, and even a wikipedia mapplet.

More mashup examples:
Craigslist Housing Mashup
http://www.housingmaps.com/

LA Times Homicide Map

Global Incident Mashup
http://www.globalincidentmap.com/home.php

Concrete Dialogues (writings about Perth)

Health Map: http://www.healthmap.org/

More on mashups:
Google Maps Mania: http://googlemapsmania.blogspot.com/
CIT info page: http://cit.duke.edu/tools/web20/mashups.html