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UC Irvine



# Choose your own RESEARCH ADVENTURE

Using Design Thinking to Build an  
Online Tutorial Focusing on  
“Research as Inquiry”



Samantha Hilton  
Occidental College



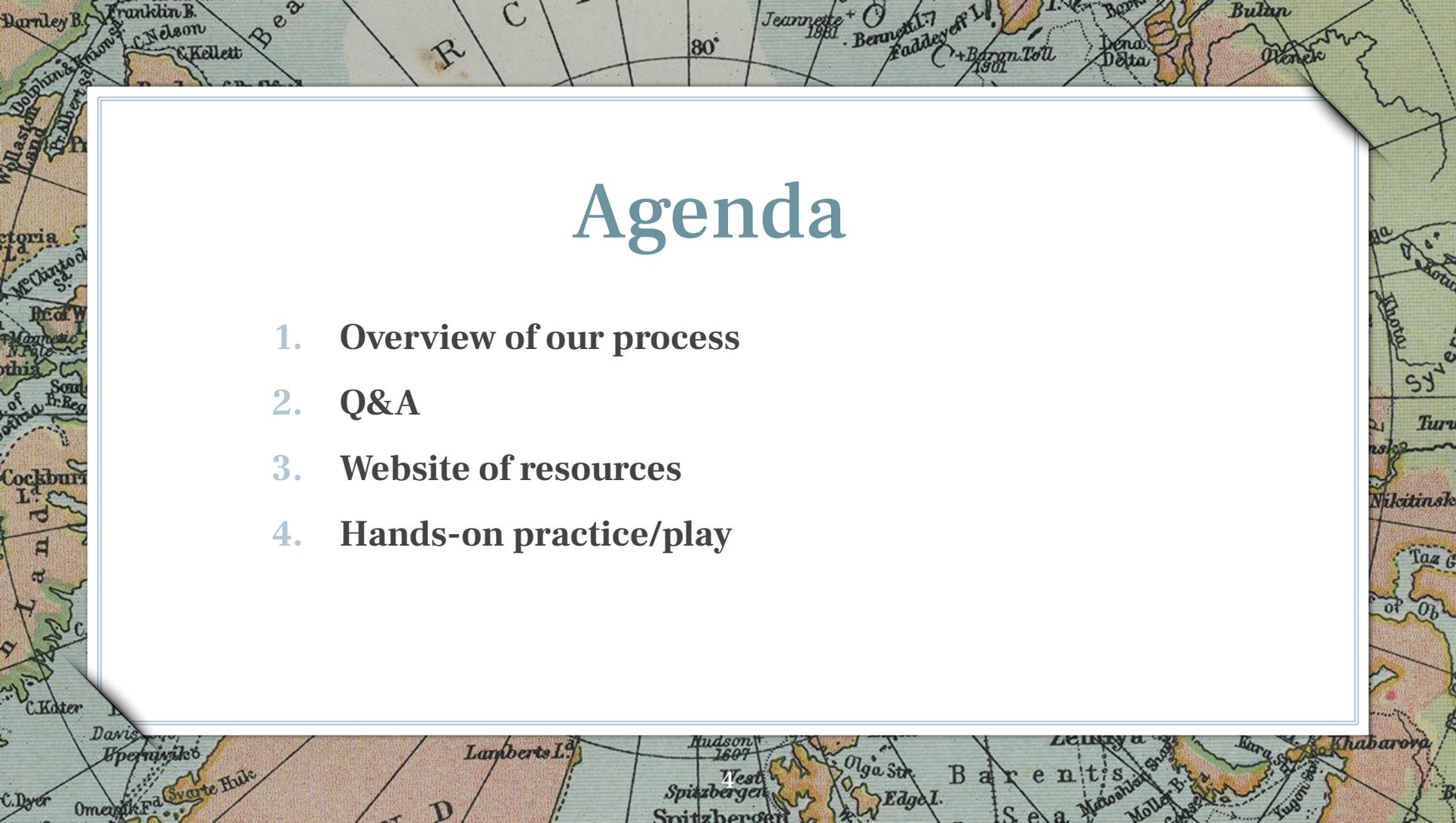


Consider supporting  
indigenous-led nonprofits  
such as the Indian Land  
Tenure Foundation  
(<https://iltf.org>)

UCI

# Institutional Context

- Public R1; 35,000 students
- Target course:
  - Humanities Core
  - 900 students, year-long, first year students



# Agenda

1. Overview of our process
2. Q&A
3. Website of resources
4. Hands-on practice/play

# The trouble with library tutorials...

Humanities Core |  
Library  
Introduction

0% COMPLETE

- Library Basics
- Connecting from Off Campus
- Humanities Core Research Guide
- Special Collections and Archives
- UC Library Search

## Library website overview

Learning to use library resources effectively will be a key component of your success in Humanities Core. This short video outlines some important services and tools the library offers.

UCI Library Website Introduction  
from UCI Libraries Education+Outreach

LOCATIONS - CONNECT FROM OFF-CAMPUS

UCI Libraries

FIND: Books & Collections  
SERVICES: Service Points & Tools  
ABOUT: Visiting & Contacts  
HELP: Ask a Librarian & Guides

UC LIBRARY SEARCH SITE SEARCH

Search articles, books and more

Articles, books and more Course Reserves

Today's Hours

LANGSON	SCIENCE	GMU	MRC	SCA	GATEWAY
Building	8:00 am - 5:00 pm				

"Ask Us" Reference 02:28 by appointment

Top Requests and Questions

- Curbside Pickup
- Suggest An Ebook For Purchase
- Streaming Media Options

Quicklinks

- UC Library Search
- Course Reserves
- Databases To Get You Started
- Research Guides

02:28

vimeo

## Dispositions listed under ACRL Frame “Research as Inquiry”



- Consider research as open-ended exploration and engagement with information
- Appreciate that a question may appear to be simple but still disruptive and important to research
- Maintain an open mind and a critical stance
- Value persistence, adaptability, and flexibility and recognize that ambiguity can benefit the research process...



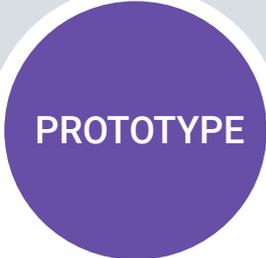
Listen to the user's experience and feelings



Infer what the problem is



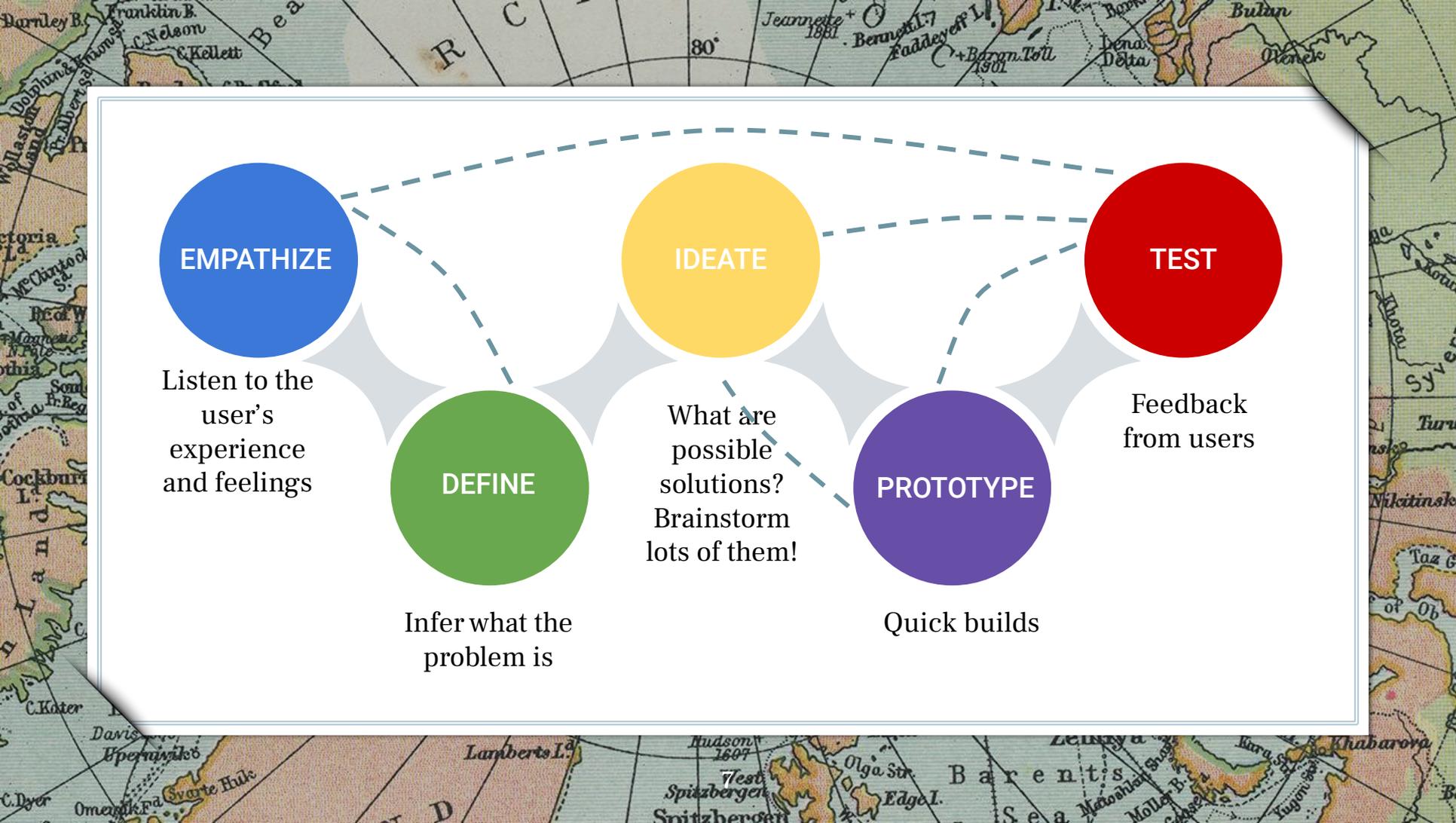
What are possible solutions?  
Brainstorm lots of them!



Quick builds



Feedback from users



## What Design Thinking Looked Like...

**EMPATHIZE**

Research consultations,  
Humanities  
Core course curriculum

**IDEATE**

So. Many.

**TEST**

User tests,  
colleague  
feedback, faculty  
feedback, pilot  
year

**DEFINE**

Missing  
“Research as  
Inquiry” model

**PROTOTYPE**

Google Docs!  
Conceptboard!  
Twine!

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IDEATE

# Ideate

QUIZ

Everyone Has A Pop-Tart Flavor That Represents Them Best — Which One Are You?

They're CRAZY GOOD.

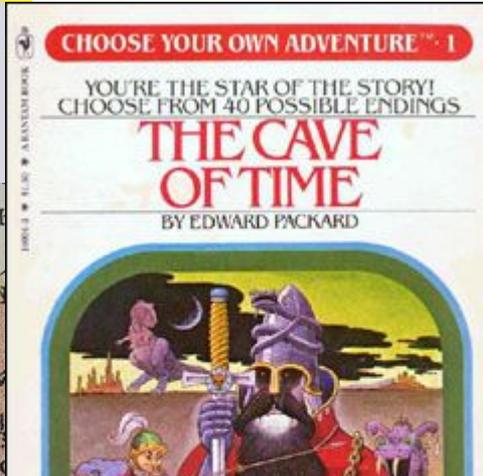
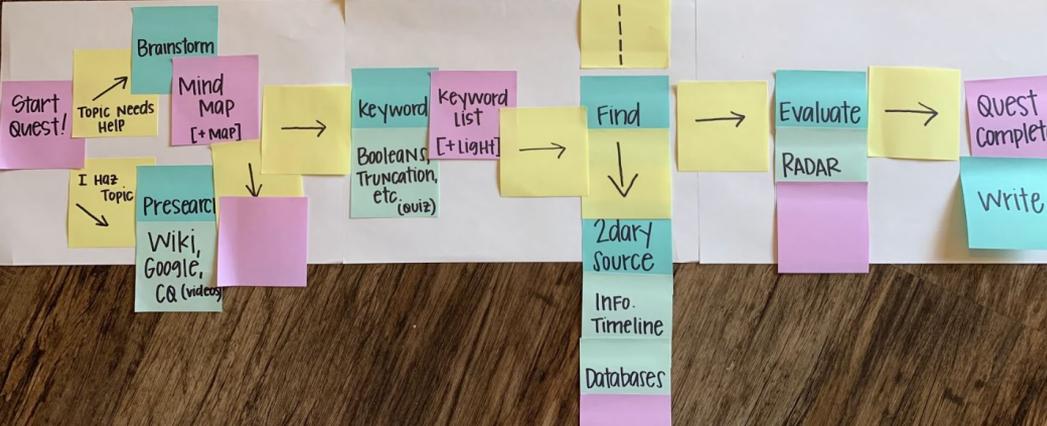
QUIZ

Choose Between These Pastas And We'll Reveal If You're More Robby Stewart Or Mr. Moseby

GET OUT OF MY LOBBY!

QUIZ

Give You A  
QUIZ



IDEATE

# Ideate

September  
7th, 2020

Created by  
Cait S. Kirby  
[Website](#)  
[Twitter](#)

Just one day.

© 2020

Cait S. Kirby

 Saves

 Restart

It is September 7th, 2020.

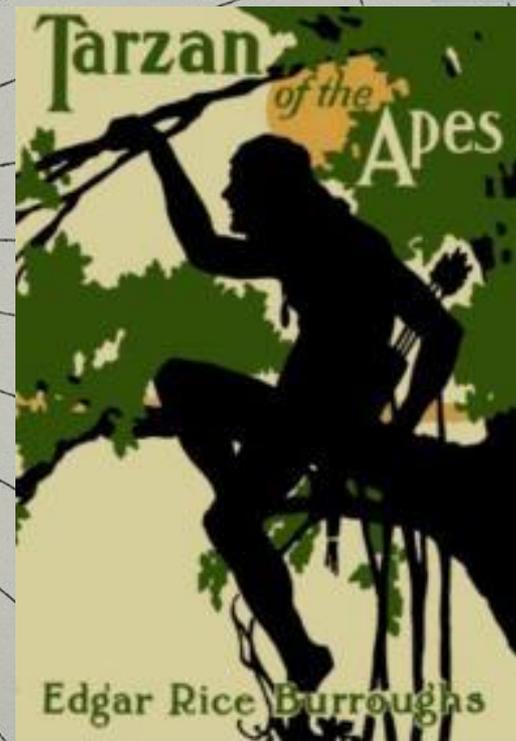
While the data suggest covid-19 is still actively moving around the US, many universities have decided to open up for face-to-face classes. You have been on campus for a few days.

You are a sophomore at Most Distinguished University of the North. You are a biology major and very excited about your genetics class this fall.

Your family in Atlanta keep calling to check in on you. They know that your chronic illness has been flaring, limiting your mobility. They know that you are at high risk for covid-19. Sometimes it's difficult just to make it through the day.

Your classes began in person this week. You try to be excited, but it's hard.

You wanted to take all your classes online. **Instead, this is your day.**



PROTOTYPE

# Prototype

Drafty texty things ☆ 📁 ☁

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100% Normal text Arial 11

1. You want to look **more closely at the text (the primary source)**. You think you need to conduct a close reading and identify a theme or interpretive angle to explore. **[Book-Primary]**
2. You want to do a **little bit of background research about the text first**. **[Book-Google]**

**[Book-Primary]**  
You decide to conduct a close reading (as described in "Literary Analysis and Close Reading" chapter of the *Humanities Core Handbook*) to see if that strategy opens up some research areas. You select several sections to annotate and "try out" as candidates for more in-depth work while also looking over your initial notes from reading. You quickly identify a few ways to think about "Animals, People, and Power" in your reading. In particular, you find yourself drawn to these two themes:

1. **Racism**. You are very struck by the fact that "Tarzan" is supposed to mean "white skin," and you have found several passages that show how racism works as a power structure vis-a-vis Tarzan's encounters with apes and with Black indigenous humans. **[Book-Primary-Racism]**
2. **Gender and the construction of masculinity**. You notice how the text presents Tarzan as not just human, but as male, and how this is constructed through his interactions with Jane as well as the apes. **[Book-Primary-Gender]**

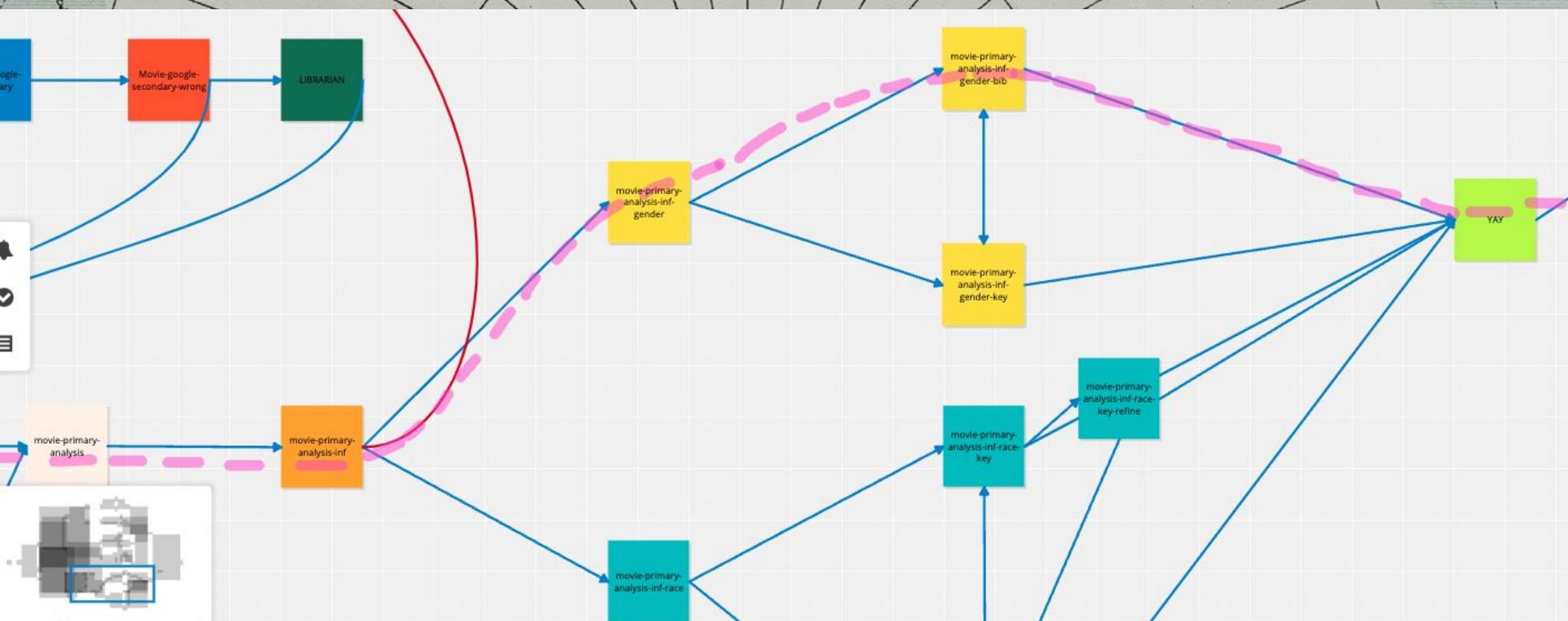
**[Book-Primary-Racism]**  
In Chapter 9 (titled "Man and Man"), Tarzan encounters other humans for the first time. Upon reading the text more closely, you are struck by the many ways in which the text presents Black

Tarzan tutorial - OVERVIEW VERSION @ All participants

Conceptboard

PROTOTYPE

# Prototype







# Test

Feedback - play testing

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submitted

A	B	C	D	E	F
submitted	grade	Name	How long	Describe the path that you took on this "resear...	Use this field to provide any other feedback (e...
3/4/21 8:58		Chloe Low	4.5 minutes	I decided to research the Tarzan Disney movie and the issue of gender with Tarzan as the main character. First I watched the Disney movie, read and analyzed the original book that inspired the movie, created a mindmap, and then searched for articles about Tarzan and gender.	I noticed that when I chose to research the primary source of the Tarzan movie backwards to the same path I had been before where I create a mindmap and same actions I had previously took in order to move forward. I tried this again backwards again, but after I noted that if I chose the "look for articles" options move forward. This might be a source of confusion for some people, so a possi to not allow people to make similar choices to ones they made before again so accidentally repeat part of the gameplay. That was the only issue I found. Another to supplement the text with images of the Tarzan book, movie, and articles to gameplay more visually interesting. Overall this was a very useful game and I th have helped me greatly when I was in HumCore!! :)
3/3/21 10:51		test	~8 minutes	tarzan book-> background research -> conversation about gender -> look up historical background information->keywords gender and tarzan -> track down sources you already know about(issue here) -> go back to tarzan text->	under section (track down sources you already know about) an image did not screenshot to Carolyn
3/3/21 10:33		Test	~6.5 minutes	Tarzan Movie -> mind map -> watch film again -> natural power structure-> track down sources you already know -> make some claims	No issues found so far
3/3/21 10:18		Mark Rojas (Te	about 8 minute	sources for Tarzan	This first time doing it there appeared to be no issues regarding typos or any g
3/1/21 10:17		Nightcrawler	8 mins	I took the watch the movie path	The aesthetic of the game is rather spartan is this the only option available, h

TEST

# Pilot Release

## Welcome!

The following choose-your-own-adventure story walks you through an example of the beginning stages of working on the Research Project for Humanities Core.

- Read the story and make decisions along the way of what to do next. The story will change according to the decisions you make.
- There are no right or wrong answers. Each choice you make will take you to a different part of the story, but all paths will eventually lead to a conclusion.
- The entire story should take about 10-15 minutes.
- At the end of the story, you will be prompted to complete a short reflection on the exercise. Your seminar instructor will provide instructions about if and how to submit this reflection for participation credit.

Let's Go!

- [PDF Version of the Tutorial](#)
- [Accessibility Needs](#)

TEST

# Test

“After doing the Tarzan research simulation, I got a better sense of how to navigate my own research into my primary sources. There is **no right or wrong way to following a path, and you can always back track or switch to a different direction.** As you get deeper into the research is where you become more concise and articulate with your topic and argument...”

reading want path simulation  
realize different research  
interesting analyze one primary sources  
certain explore made multiple understanding  
teel idea gave use  
questions start really know  
using approach



TEST

# Test



scholarly provided conduct pretty  
found finding movie  
various story steps information watching project paper end

“The Tarzan research simulation laid out an organized path in which I can follow for my own research process. The paths were vague in my head and **the activity was able to clarify the process of delving into a source, exploring various types of media, and lightly skimming for secondary sources...** In walking me through an organized process, I am able to reflect upon this simulation in order to conduct a structured research process to delve into a wide variety of sources...”



realize different **research** questions start really use  
interesting analyze one primary sources know  
certain explore made using  
multiple understanding bit approach



TEST

# Test



scholarly provided conduct pretty  
found finding movie  
various story steps information watching project paper end

I realized that there were **multiple different paths I could choose** while considering a primary source and its topic, and that **not every step was promising or helpful for my research...** The simulation did help me understand how to get started by showing different steps I could take during research.



reading want path simulation  
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**EMPATHIZE**

Listen to the user's experience and feelings

**DEFINE**

Infer what the problem is

**IDEATE**

What are possible solutions?  
Brainstorm lots of them!

**PROTOTYPE**

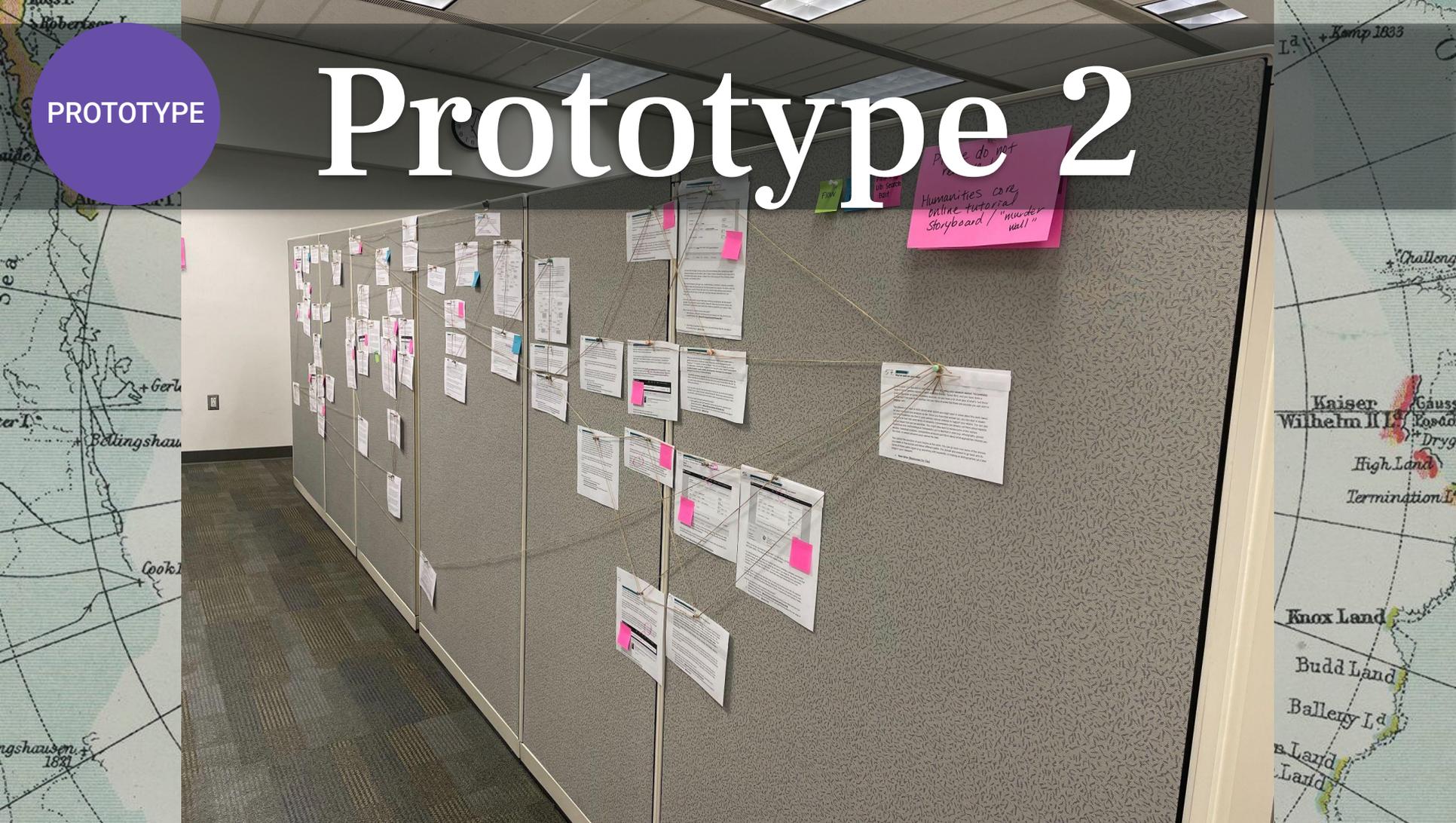
Quick builds

**TEST**

Feedback from users

# Prototype 2

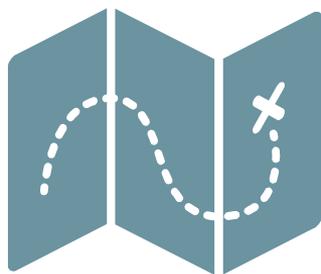
PROTOTYPE





“

*I was feeling so stuck before I did this simulation, because I thought that I needed to find a secondary source right away that talked about my primary source. By doing this, I saw how analyzing your primary source WAS research, and I feel a lot better about exploring ideas that seem vague or open-ended right now, but might become more clear as I look into them...*



THANKS!

Presentation Q&A

[sites.google.com/oxy.edu/loex](https://sites.google.com/oxy.edu/loex)