Toward an Interactive Directory for Norfolk, Nebraska: 1899-1900

Robert B. Allen
ロバート アレン

Visiting Foreign Research Scholar
Research Center for Knowledge Communities
University of Tsukuba
Tsukuba, Japan

rba@boballen.info
Next Generation Cultural Collections

- Scale ("Big Data")
- Coordinated media
- New users and user interfaces
- New modes of indexing
Toward an Interactive City Directory

- City directories are common and useful.
- In the modern context, they would be more useful if they covered many years.
- It helps to have scale of combining many resources many people, many families.
Strategy: Pick a test town

• Criteria
  – Digitized Newspaper Collection (NDNP)
  – Census Transcription
  – City Directories or other records online.
  – All available in a short period of time.

Norfolk, Madison County, Nebraska
POPULISTS IN SESSION
Convention Begins its Work
at Sioux Falls.

THE NORFOLK WEEKLY NEWS.
NORFOLK, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1894.

THESE FOUR HATS ARE
LATE PARIS PATTERNS.
See copies of
them...
...INSKEEPS.

BOEHS CHECK HUTTON
His Community Has Narrow Escape From Being Cut Off.

KILLING NOT AN EXAGRATION
These were the words used by Mr. Hutton, who was the

ST. LOUIS' BIG CAR STRIKE.
Every Line in the City Except One Was資金ed.

BOARDS & TULLE.
M. O. T. S. Galleries, 25th St. and Locust.
NORTHWEST.

MORE PHOTOS ON NEXT PAGE.

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES.

STATE:

COUNTY:

TOWNSHIP:

JURISDICTION:

Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division:

Name of Institution:

Ward of city:

Schedule No. 1—Population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relation</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Value of Real Estate</th>
<th>Value of Personal Estate</th>
<th>Value of Schedule</th>
<th>Exemption</th>
<th>Occupations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Doe</td>
<td>Head of Family</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>35</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Smith</td>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Jr. Doe</td>
<td>Son</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>10</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Many other resources such as post cards.

Same intersection from 1910 and today.
Toward an Interactive Directory

• Prominent Individuals and Families
  – Asmus
    • Owned grocery
    • Active family
  – H. Baird
    • Married and moved
  – J.S. McCleary
    • Civil War veteran
  – Simpson
    • Mayor
  – Truman
    • Painting and wallpaper
• Characterizing the town
Formalizing the Model

- Complex entities
- Representing the events
  - Entity-event fabric
    - State changes
  - Discourse models
Toward Community Models

• Multi-family biography
• Executable models (simulations)
• Interactive historical re-enactors
• Games
  – talk to your (simulated) ancestors
• Cyber-drama