Map Comparisons with JuxtaposeJS

Welcome to the Essential ArcGIS Task Sheet Series. This series supplements the Iowa State University Geospatial Technology Training Program short course series. The task sheets are designed to provide quick, easy instructions for performing mapping tasks.

JuxtaposeJS helps storytellers compare two photos. It’s ideal for highlighting then/now stories that explain slow changes over time (growth of a city skyline, regrowth of a forest, etc.) or before/after stories that show the impact of single dramatic events (natural disasters, protests, wars, etc.). It is free, easy to use, and works on all devices. All you need to get started are links to the images you’d like to compare. This task sheet will show you how to use JuxtaposeJS to create a Juxtapose Slider for comparing two images.

1. Getting Started

   a. You will need two different images to compare. If you don’t already have two images, check out the University of Iowa Digital Library Map Collection website: [http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/maps/](http://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/maps/) for scanned map images, or Iowa State University’s Iowa Geographic Map Server website: [http://ortho.gis.iastate.edu/](http://ortho.gis.iastate.edu/) where you can download historic aerial photos going back to 1930.

   b. For this example I downloaded a JPEG image of the Iowa State University campus from the 1930 aerial imagery, and a JPEG image of the 2014 Natural Color (NC) Summer Orthophoto of the same area and scale from the Iowa Geographic Map Server website.

   c. Once you have two images you will need to host them on a web server so you can provide JuxtaposeJS with a URL to each image. If you don’t have a web server for your images, you can host them on Flickr, Dropbox, or Google Drive. Note: another option is to host the images through GitHub by turning on GitHub Pages though the repository settings.


   e. Once you have two images hosted on a web server, or other location, navigate to [https://juxtapose.knightlab.com/](https://juxtapose.knightlab.com/) in a web browser.
2. Creating a Juxtapose Slider

a. Scroll down on the page until you get to the Create a Juxtapose slider section. Replace the URLs listed under Left Image, and Right Image with the URLs to your hosted images, or click on the Dropbox icon to browse to your images. Note: you can also test out this tool using the URLs to our images in step 1d.

b. Update the Label field with a label or date for each image. For this example, the left image is set to 1930, and the right image is set to 2014.

c. Provide credits to the source of the images. For this example, I set the source as the Iowa Geographic Map Server. Note: because both images came from the same source, I only provided this information once.

d. Click Update preview. If everything is looking correct, click Publish to get access to the iframe code that can be embedded in a website, or the URL to the hosted Juxtapose Slider that could be shared with others.

3. Slider Options

a. You don’t have to start with the slider in the middle of both images, you can set it anywhere between 1%-99%.

b. Show Labels: If checked, your labels will be displayed. You must have labels for both images, or they won’t be shown, even if this is checked.

c. Show Credits: If checked, image credits will be displayed below the slider.

d. Animate: If checked, the divider will glide to the point where someone clicks; otherwise, it will jump.

e. Make Responsive: If checked, the iframe will be set to 100% width instead of an absolute pixel value.

f. Vertical: If checked, the divider will move vertically instead of horizontally.

Contact:

Bailey Hanson  bahanson@iastate.edu, 515-520-1436 or Professor Christopher J. Seeger, ASLA, GISP cjseeger@iastate.edu, 515-509-0651 for more information about the Geospatial Technology Program. This task sheet and more are available at www.extension.iastate.edu/communities/gis

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