

## MA in Digital Humanities (2014-15)

### Practicum Lightning Presentation

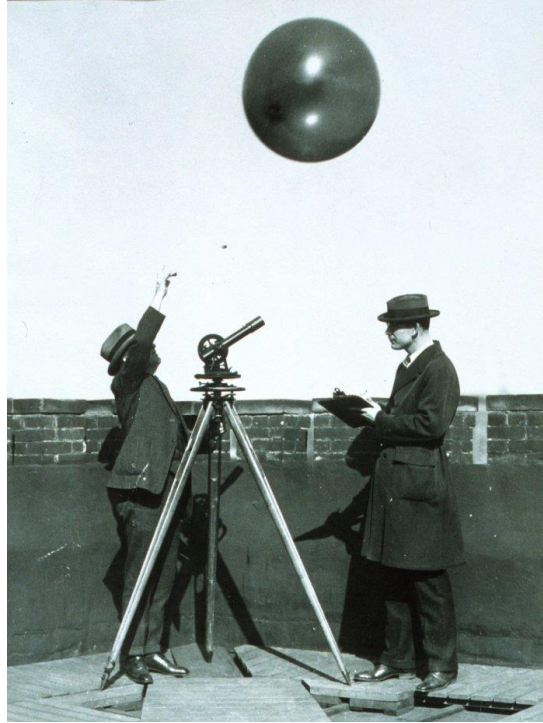
A project plan for a digital archive of pre 1943 Irish pilot balloon records

Supervising Institution  
**Met Éireann**



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## What is a pilot balloon?



© NOAA



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<http://www.ua.nws.noaa.gov/photo.htm>

## The challenge

### Unique collection but not used

**Organisational Challenge:** Take action to improve usage of the collection.

**Project Challenge:** Investigate if a digital archive of this collection would improve usage and user engagement.

## Data

- Pilot balloon records 1918-1942
- Administrative files
- Survey data
- Bibliographic sources

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## Tools

- Excel (to list the collection)
- Survey Monkey (to gather user data)
- Digital Archive software (e.g. Omeka, Archivematica, Xena)
- Metadata (e.g. Dublin Core, EAD, OAIS)
- Wireframe Tools (e.g. Mockingbird, Gliffy, Lovely Charts)
- Blog (to communicate progress)

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## Methodology

- Exploratory (traditional historical research)
- Quantitative research (surveying users)
- Case study research (looking at similar projects)
- Prototyping (building wireframe mockups)

## Similar approaches

- [Old Weather](#)
- [Data Rescue at Home](#)
- [Historical Canadian Climate Data](#)
- [NOAA Central Library Foreign Data](#)
- [North American Bird Phenology Program](#)

## Problems so far

- Location of records
- Time management
- Scope creep
- Laptop stolen

## Outcomes

- A whitepaper with recommendations for future work
- A complete inventory of the pilot balloon collection pre-1943
- Improved storage conditions for the pilot balloon collection
- Improved understanding about the collection

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