

# Google Fusion Tables and Digital Collections

## Fact Sheet and Considerations

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### 1. Introduction

This document summarizes and analyzes how you can use Google Fusion Tables as a method of accessing your digital collection via your website and digital repository. We recommend that you consult our website at: <http://ascmap.blog.yorku.ca> while reading this document, so that you can see visual examples on how Google Fusion Tables can be implemented and displayed.

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### 2. Summary of Application

"Fusion Tables is an experimental data visualization web application to gather, visualize, and share larger data tables.....Turn location tables into maps. Points, lines, polygons, customer addresses, placenames, countries and more can be mapped in minutes with Fusion Tables. Columns with location data are automatically interpreted." <http://support.google.com/fusiontables/answer/2571232/?hl=en#map>

### 3. Starting Out and Technical Support

#### Registration and Installation

You need a Google Account to register and get started.

#### Help and Tutorials

- Introductory Tour : <http://support.google.com/fusiontables/answer/2571232>
- Help Pages : <http://support.google.com/fusiontables/answer/171193?hl=en&>
- Tutorials: <http://support.google.com/fusiontables/answer/184641>
- Examples: <https://sites.google.com/site/fusiontablestalks/stories>
- Discussion Groups/Online Community: <http://productforums.google.com/forum/#!categories/google-fusion-tables>
- API Developers Guide <https://developers.google.com/fusiontables/>

#### Required Skills

It is easy to create an account and import data. The help and tutorials make it clear on how to do tasks that you may not be comfortable or have experience doing such as: preparing data for "geocoding/addressing", customization of the display of your map, table, and other outputs. Don't be afraid to play and experiment,

especially with the embedded html code. More advanced users who are comfortable with scripting and programming can use the Google API technology to do more advanced customizations.

### **Sandbox / Testing Site**

The “private” setting can be used to test your fusion tables, maps, and other “outputs”. You can also share your private data with other members of your team. Once your outputs are ready, you can then publish it and make it live. It is recommended to test your embedded html code on a test (unpublished) website, to work out problems.

### **Systems Support**

We were using Wordpress as our Content Management/Website Management system. It was necessary to install the “Unfiltered MU” plug-in to allow the display of embedded html code. You may need assistance from your website administrator to ensure that you can display this type of code.

## **4. Intellectual Control**

### **Type of Service**

Google Fusion Tables is currently in experimental version. At present, it is a free service provided by Google. It is a collaborative service, which allows numerous editors of the same document or project.

### **Licensing Restrictions and Rights**

Metadata for your digital objects should be open access since it is stored on your Google drive account. Your digital objects (maps, photos etc.) must be stored on your own server, which provides you with control over the licensing and intellectual property of the information.

Attribution is possible for your data which is useful for citations. If the data is repurposed, the attribution will follow, even as it merges with other tables.

<http://support.google.com/fusiontables/answer/171193?hl=en&>

### **Privacy Settings**

Your data can be stored and displayed via your Google Fusion account, as long as the data is made public. Your data can be exported as a CSV file or a KML file (native file format for Google Earth). You can keep the KML files on our local server, and also direct the embedded HTML code to link with your locally hosted KML file.

## **5. Human Resources**

### **Labour Cost & Staffing Environment**

Compilation of the metadata and other data entry and preparing the data for geolocation is the major labour cost, depending on the size and scope of your project. The importing, mapping, and visualization of the data, is minimal labour cost.

## 6. Data Management

### Data Formatting

*It is best to prepare your data for geocoding in a spreadsheet prior to importing the data into Google Fusion Tables. Help and tutorials about geocoding by latitude/longitude, street addresses, postal codes, municipality, and street intersections is available via this link:*

<http://support.google.com/fusiontables/answer/171183?hl=en&topic=27017&ctx=topic>

### Batch Loading of Data

*It is possible to import files (up to 100 MB) of these formats: .csv, .txt., .kml, .xls, .xlsx, .ods, and Google Spreadsheets. More information on batchloading go to:*

[http://support.google.com/fusiontables/answer/171181?hl=en&ref\\_topic=27017](http://support.google.com/fusiontables/answer/171181?hl=en&ref_topic=27017)

### Customization of Metadata

*It is possible to customize the display and order of metadata fields in your Google Fusion table. It is also possible to establish a URL link to your metadata records on your institutional repository or catalogue.*

### Linking to Institutional Repository or Server

*Since Google Fusion is an enhanced form of a spreadsheet, you can link in the spreadsheet to the URL or URI of your image or document.*

## 7. Display of the Final Output

### Website Integration

*There are three methods of integrating into your website:*

- *stable hyperlinks to your Google Fusion Map, Table, Chart, or Cards*
- *embedded HTML code*
- *Google Fusion Table API Code*

### Customization of Display

*Size, colour, text, and borders can be customized for the maps, tables, and other features:*

[http://support.google.com/fusiontables/answer/2562121?hl=en&ref\\_topic=2573107](http://support.google.com/fusiontables/answer/2562121?hl=en&ref_topic=2573107)

*Warning: the customized display of map symbols are not conserved during the export from Google Fusion to KML format. It is possible to customize the map symbols in Google Earth.*

### Branding

*Institutional branding can be done on your webpage OR editing/creating a Google Fusion Table API.*

## 8. Examples

1. *Google Fusion Table Features - Example: Toronto Telegram Bank Robbery Photos.*  
<http://ascmap.blog.yorku.ca/googlefusion/features/>
2. *Google Fusion - Step by Step - Example: Lou Wise Oblique Airphoto Collection, Clara Thomas Archives and Special Collections* <http://ascmap.blog.yorku.ca/googlefusion/gfhowto/>
3. *York University Map Library- Airphoto Collection* <http://www.library.yorku.ca/cms/map/collections/air-photos/>
4. *Interactive Index of Canadian Original Maps - Western Libraries*  
<http://www.lib.uwo.ca/madgic/interactiveindexofcanadianoriginalmaps.html>

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*Updated: January 27, 2013.*

*Document URL: <http://ascmap.blog.yorku.ca/files/2013/01/GoogleFusionEvaluation.pdf>*