Introduction

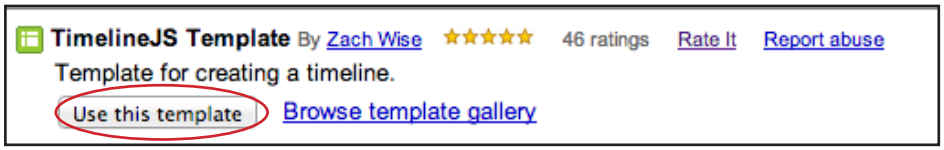
TimelineJS (www.timeline.verite.co) is a web application and open source tool that can pull in media from different sources and organize it into a nice looking timeline interface. You can set up the timeline using a Google spreadsheet or for advanced users, using a JSON file. Timeline allows you to directly pull in content from Twitter, Flicker, Google Maps, Youtube, Soundcloud and other media types. In this tutorial, we will cover using the Google spreadsheet to create a timeline.

Starting Your Timeline

1) Visit *http://timeline.knightlab.com/* and click on "**Make a Timeline Now**."

2) The site will redirect you to the four easy steps to creating a timeline. Note that they also have a video tutorial that you can watch! Click on the "**Google Spreadsheet Template**" button to start working on your timeline. As it says on their website, drop dates, text, and links to media into the appropriate columns. Do not change the column headers, don't remove any columns, and don't leave any blanks rows in your spreadsheet.

3) You will be redirected to the Google spreadsheet template. You will want to click "**Use this template**" at the top. This will save the Google Spreadsheet in your Google Drive. Note: You may need to sign into your Google email if you are not already logged in.

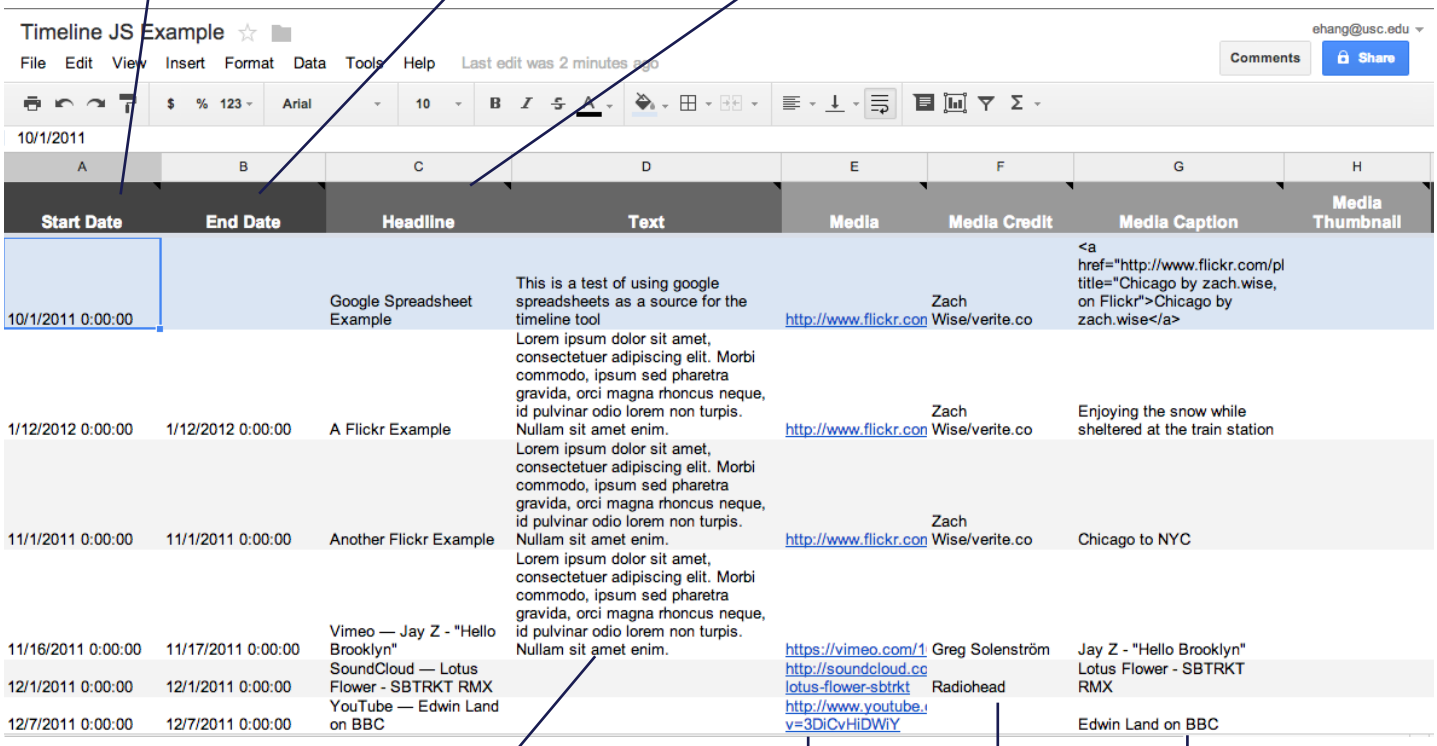


Editing Your Google Spreadsheet

Enter in a Start/End Date and Time. Take note of the format MM/DD/YY 0:00:00. If there is no time, leave it 0:00:00.

Leave end time blank to create a introduction to your timeline that will work as a cover.

Use this column to change the headline of that particular point on your timeline.



Timeline JS Example

Start Date	End Date	Headline	Text	Media	Media Credit	Media Caption	Media Thumbnail
10/1/2011 0:00:00		Google Spreadsheet Example	This is a test of using google spreadsheets as a source for the timeline tool	http://www.flickr.con	Zach Wise/verite.co	Chicago by zach.wise	
1/12/2012 0:00:00	1/12/2012 0:00:00	A Flickr Example	Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. Morbi commodo, ipsum sed pharetra gravida, orci magna rhoncus neque, id pulvinar odio lorem non turpis. Nullam sit amet enim.	http://www.flickr.con	Zach Wise/verite.co	Enjoying the snow while sheltered at the train station	
11/1/2011 0:00:00	11/1/2011 0:00:00	Another Flickr Example	Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. Morbi commodo, ipsum sed pharetra gravida, orci magna rhoncus neque, id pulvinar odio lorem non turpis. Nullam sit amet enim.	http://www.flickr.con	Zach Wise/verite.co	Chicago to NYC	
11/16/2011 0:00:00	11/17/2011 0:00:00	Vimeo — Jay Z - "Hello Brooklyn"	Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. Morbi commodo, ipsum sed pharetra gravida, orci magna rhoncus neque, id pulvinar odio lorem non turpis. Nullam sit amet enim.	https://vimeo.com/1	Greg Solenström	Jay Z - "Hello Brooklyn"	
12/1/2011 0:00:00	12/1/2011 0:00:00	SoundCloud — Lotus Flower - SBTRKT RMX		http://soundcloud.cc lotus-flower-sbtrkt	Radiohead	Lotus Flower - SBTRKT RMX	
12/7/2011 0:00:00	12/7/2011 0:00:00	YouTube — Edwin Land on BBC		http://www.youtube. v=3DiCvHiDWiY		Edwin Land on BBC	

This will the body text that shows up for each Timeline slide.

In this column, you can add video, Flickr photos, Tweets, YouTube or Vimeo clips, Soundcloud, Instagram, Google Plus status, Wikipedia, or an image. Simply paste the link in and Timeline JS will format it in an aesthetically pleasing way when you publish it.

This column will add a text caption underneath the media.

Make sure to give credit to the owner of the media.

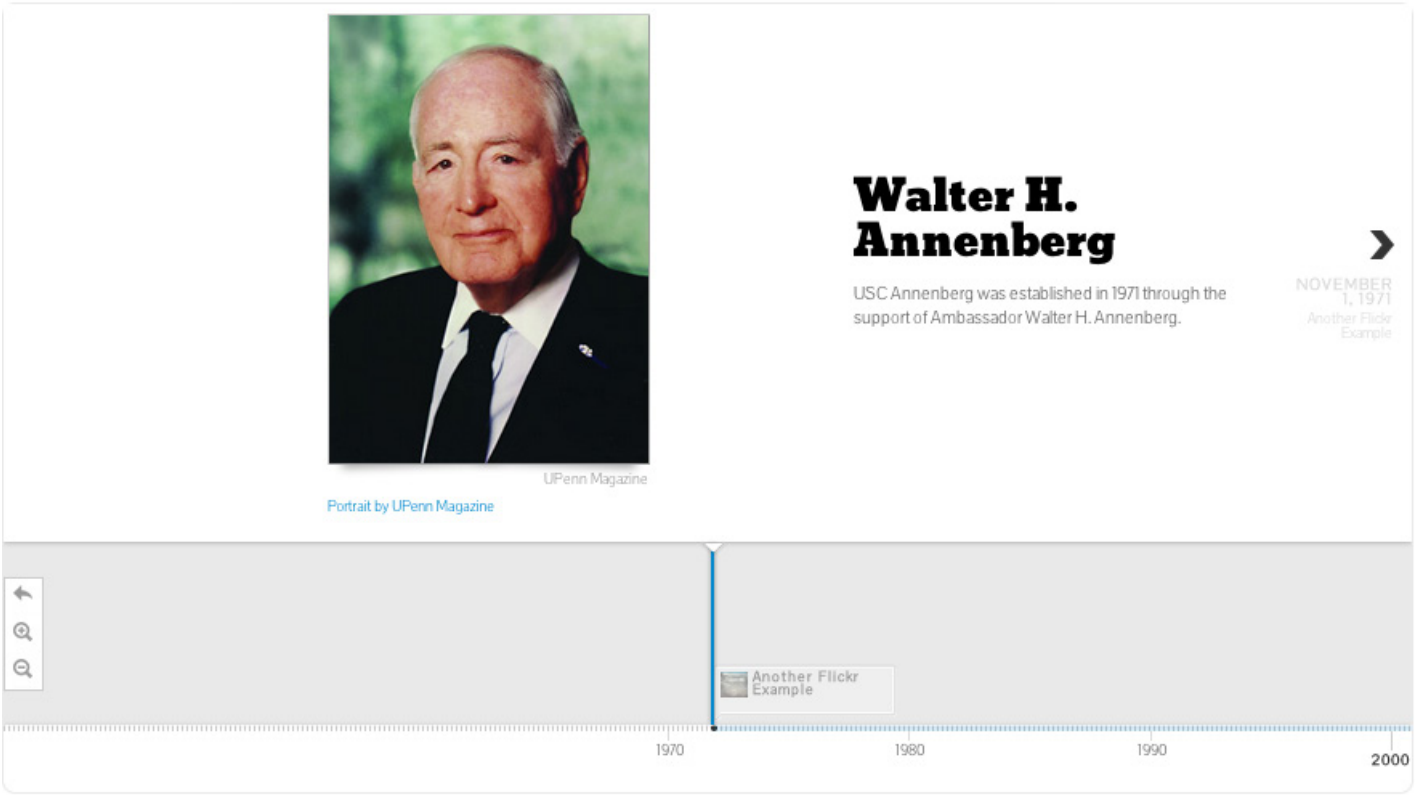
Example

Let's create a timeline about the history of USC Annenberg as an example.

1) Start inputting the information into the timeline. In this instance, i'll start with Walter H. Annenberg, who helped fund USC Annenberg.

Start Date	End Date	Headline	Text	Media	Media Credit	Media Caption
10/1/1971 0:00:00		Walter H. Annenberg	USC Annenberg was established in 1971 through the support of Ambassador Walter H. Annenberg.	http://www.wharton.u	UPenn Magazine	<a href="http://www.wharton. by UPenn Magazine

2) Input a start date and I will leave the end date blank, so that it exists as a cover. I will input a title, "Walter H. Annenberg" and in text, I'll write a caption. Make sure to give the media a credit and caption when applicable. For instance, this data that I inputted below will look like this when published:



Other Types of Content

As noted before, you can aggregate content from various sources such as Flickr, SoundCloud, YouTube, Vimeo, Twitter, etc. Simply paste a link to that media and Timeline JS will format it automatically. Here are some examples of how a video and tweet that I've added to my Annenberg timeline will look from the Google spreadsheet to being published:

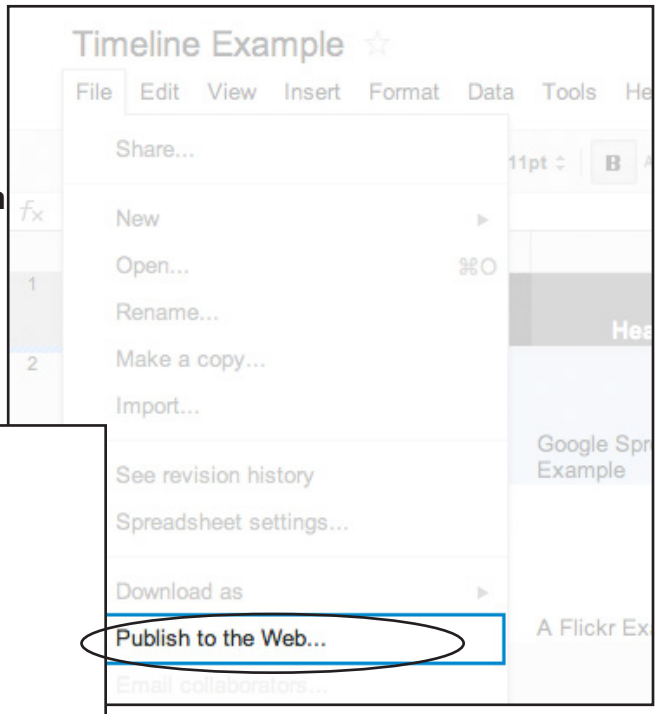
Start Date	End Date	Headline	Text	Media	Media Credit
12/16/2013 0:00:00		Digital Empowerment - the USC Annenberg and Adobe Collaboration	USC's Annenberg School of Communication and Journalism partnered with Adobe Creative Cloud to bring cutting edge digital communication and media technologies to students and faculty. The collaboration is a first for Adobe and USC and will become a cornerstone of a core mission at USC Annenberg -- to encourage and establish digital literacy as an integral part of a student's education here. Pursuing digital literacy includes teaching students how to think critically about the digital world of communication and also how to participate and flourish in that world.	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Svy_ILAy4tg	USC + Adobe

Start Date	End Date	Headline	Text	Media	Media Credit
2/13/2014 0:00:00		A Tweet: The New Building		https://twitter.com/USCAnnenberg/statuses/42	

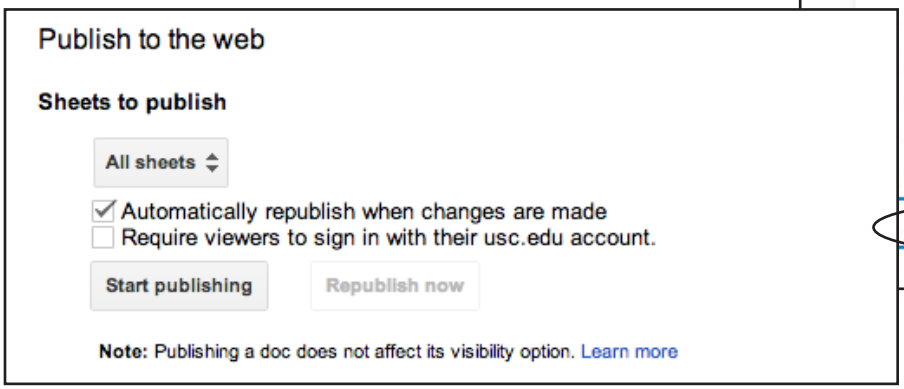
Publishing Your Timeline

Once you've added all your Timeline points, you can now publish it and preview how your Timeline will look. (You can also do this at anytime during the process to preview how it looks).

1) On your Google Spreadsheet, go to the **File menu** > select "**Publish to the web...**"



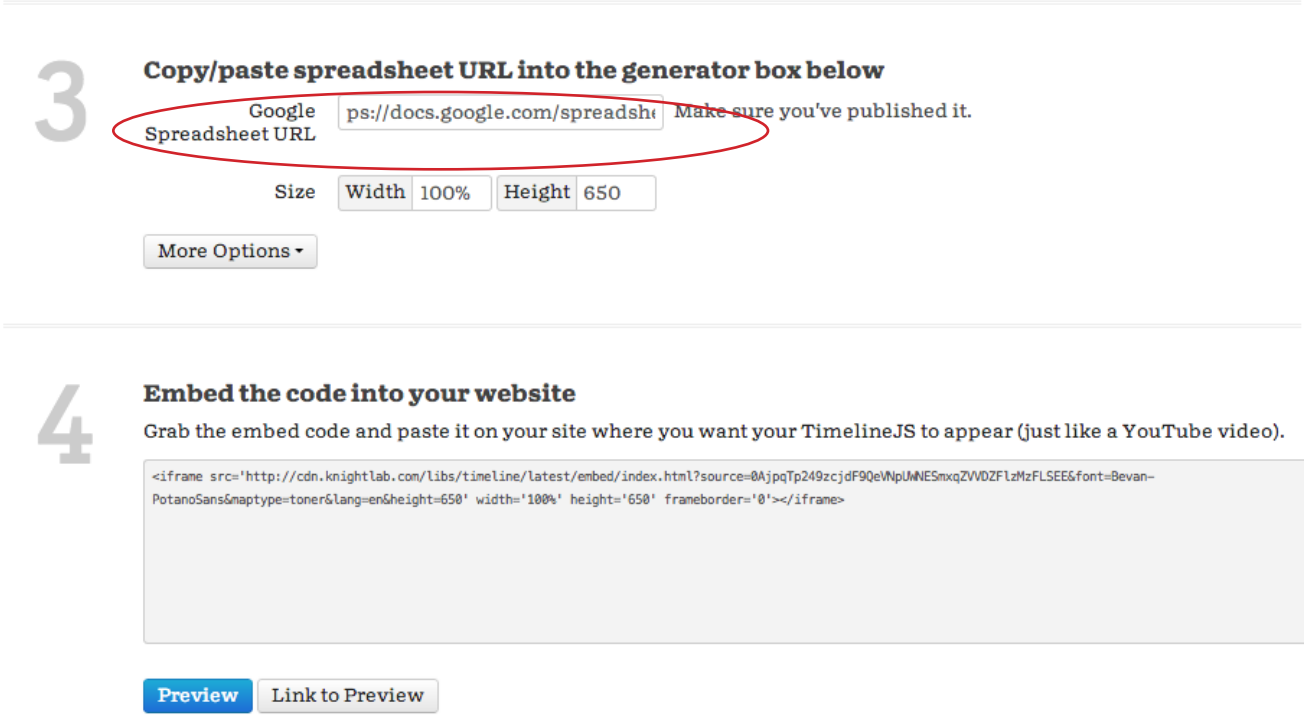
2) In the next window, check "**Automatically republish when changes are made.**" Uncheck all other boxes. Click "**start publishing.**" This will give you the URL to embed in your HTML file, which will appear below Start Publishing.



3) Highlight and hit CTRL + C on your keyboard to copy the link.

4) Now go back to the timeline website (*http://timeline.knightlab.com/*) and scroll down until you see the generator box.

This section of the website looks like this:



5) CTRL + V or PASTE that URL into the "**Google Spreadsheet URL**" section. You can edit the width and height of your timeline and also click on "More Options" to such as fonts, different map types, etc.

6) The site will then give you an embed code in Section #4 that you can copy onto any website. You can preview your timeline by clicking on the **Preview** button. You can also get a direct link to your timeline by clicking on "**Link to Preview**." It will open a new tab with your timeline, where you can copy the hyperlink.