

**Annotation Tools  
Features Checklist**

	Annotations at Harvard	Collaborative Annotation Tool	Co-ment	DM Project
Background/Intro				Formerly Digital Mappamundi. DM out of Drew University is an environment for the study and annotation of images and texts. It is a suite of tools, enabling scholars to gather and organize the evidence necessary to support arguments based in digitized resources. DM enables users to mark fragments of interest in manuscripts, print materials, photographs, etc. and provide commentary on these resources and the relationships among them. A principle objective in this project is to continue to develop our understanding of scholarly work processes in order to effectively support research as it is practiced now, while opening the door for new methods of scholarship to emerge. Users cannot upload their own images, they can only use the images already uploaded into the application. The application itself has a very advanced multiple document viewscreens, search functionality, excellent image annotation. Within the annotations, you can link to other texts in the application and also to external websites.
Tool sites	A framework for annotating across media forms. They say, "a system for easily citing, tracking, searching and discovering relevant resources and annotations across all of these forms is paramount". The research project has created several tools, including the Domeo Annotation Toolkit, the Collaborative Annotation Tool, Highbrow: A Textual Annotation Browser, and Filtered Push: Annotating Database Collections. Tools are analyzed separately in the following columns.	A tool for collaborative annotation of texts and images, developed first in 2001 with Course iSites version released in 2010. Open Source release sometime in 2012. Available for any Harvard Course iSite, restricted to the Harvard community.	co-ment® is a group-oriented, commercial web service for annotating, discussing and writing of online texts. A feature-limited free version is available as well. The main features of comment are: annotate, discuss, and (re)write. The tool has been designed especially for uses in education and law. It features a comprehensive contributor and role management, a flexible text editor, easy import of different text formats such as MS Word, version control, and the possibility to include the comment texts in your own web site in a portal-link fashion. <a href="http://www.co-ment.com/">http://www.co-ment.com/</a> . The service is built on top the free, open source software COMT Web-based text annotation system.	<a href="http://dm.drew.edu/dmproject/">http://dm.drew.edu/dmproject/</a>
General Features				DH Implementation Grant from NEH (2013-14). Collaborating with the DMSTech project based at Stanford and including partners at the University of Toronto, Johns Hopkins University, St. Louis University, and Los Alamos National Lab.
User Features	research support browser compatibility ease of use(easy, medium, hard?)	Created by the Academic Technology Group (Harvard University Information Technology) unknown	Yes, intended for law and educational settings all browsers	Doesn't say
	own text privacy Dashboard	unknown no public option; unknown	yes free version only public	no don't think so No
Annotation Features	groups	unknown	group and extensive role management	Adding functionality
	multimedia	annotation of images supported	text only	Images only
	filtering	unknown	by author, tag, state, date	Search function
	placement	images: popup and on side	in margin, either adjacent to highlighted text or as running annotations	Annotate image with lines, dropped pins, boxes, other polygonal shapes. Annotation than appears in separate viewscreen on the right.
	overlapping	unknown	yes	Unclear
	search predictive text	most likely supported unknown	yes no	Yes No
	tagging	unknown	yes, integrated with annotations	No, but very advanced search functionality
	multilanguage	unknown	yes	Images only
	TEI	unknown	no (support for markdown, HTML, and reStructuredText)	No
	visualization replies to comments	unknown yes - images; unknown	yes, annotation and access activity yes	DM also allows users to export the linked data they create for database use. Data may be exported in a standard RDF3 (XML, TTL) format that complies with current Open Annotation Collaboration protocol. No

Domeo	Ecomma	Highbrow	ImageMAT (Formerly MARGOT Annotation Tool)	Marginalia
<p>Part of the Annotations at Harvard project, a web application for creating and sharing annotations on scientific texts. Developed at Massachusetts General Hospital, by Paolo Ciccarese (worked on Annotation Ontology, the W3C standard for annotations in development).</p> <p><a href="http://annotationframework.org/">http://annotationframework.org/</a></p>	<p>eComma is an online annotation tool developed at the University of Texas, Austin, and supported by an NEH Digital Humanities Start-Up grant, as well as local support. eComma uses PHP, the Smarty template, and MySQL. It has been deployed successfully in classes, as well as as part of an online exhibit by the Harry Ransom Center, "The Collaborative Rubaiyat". It is currently not publicly available for download.</p> <p><a href="http://coerll.utexas.edu/coerll/projects/ecomma">http://coerll.utexas.edu/coerll/projects/ecomma</a></p>	<p>Visualization tool for pre-existing annotations. Marks annotations by location in text, and you can explore annotations according to the source text, or the source text according to the annotations. You can also make your own annotations by logging in. Developed by Reinhard Engels based on genome browser tools that easily handle large datasets. The visualization of annotations in the text is very much like a timeline.</p> <p><a href="http://osc.hul.harvard.edu/highbrow/">http://osc.hul.harvard.edu/highbrow/</a>  <a href="http://osc.hul.harvard.edu/liblab/proj/highbrow-textual-annotation-browser">http://osc.hul.harvard.edu/liblab/proj/highbrow-textual-annotation-browser</a></p>	<p>The MARGOT team, together with its partner projects is currently developing the prototype for a web-based image annotation tool designed to facilitate and perfect online searches, information aggregation, annotation, and self-organizing knowledge of enriched multi-representational databases. Through its development, the MARGOT Annotation Tool (imageMAT) will participate actively in developing common standards for annotation and content sharing tools (proposed by the Stanford Framework, Stanford University Libraries), which repositories of digital material will be able to implement.</p> <p><a href="http://mat.uwaterloo.ca/MAT/">http://mat.uwaterloo.ca/MAT/</a></p>	<p>Marginalia is an open source Javascript web annotation system specifically developed with online discussion in mind. Originally developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, it is also partially supported by Simon Fraser University, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, and UNDESA Africa I-Parliaments Action Plan. It is currently online and downloadable from Google code(<a href="http://code.google.com/p/marginalia/">http://code.google.com/p/marginalia/</a>), it is specifically developed as a plug-in for the Moodle course management system.</p> <p><a href="http://webmarginalia.net/">http://webmarginalia.net/</a></p>
<p>Funded by Eli Lilly, the NIH (via Neuroscience Information Framework), and Elsevier B.V. Firefox and Chrome, no IE.</p> <p>medium-hard</p> <p>not through tool, but irrelevant private, groups, or public</p> <p>yes</p> <p>text, links to biomedical concepts (through tags), extensible through plugins</p> <p>yes, but of text by tags</p> <p>mark text, click text to pop up annotation</p> <p>yes</p> <p>can search different "vocabulary sets" for tags to use yes, based on "vocabulary set" for tags</p> <p>yes</p> <p>technically supported</p> <p>no</p> <p>no</p> <p>no</p>	<p>NEH Digital Humanities Start-Up Grant, plus local support cross-compatible</p> <p>easy-medium</p> <p>No public; course-visible</p> <p>groups managed by admin users</p> <p>supports html, but no native multimedia support</p> <p>of tags; of comments by author; of comments by selected text</p> <p>under text</p> <p>yes</p> <p>yes</p> <p>yes - but separate from comments</p> <p>yes - used in ESL and French courses</p> <p>yes</p> <p>yes - heat map</p> <p>yes</p>	<p>Funded by Harvard Library Lab and Arcadia Fund. Firefox (text only) and Chrome, no IE</p> <p>easy-medium</p> <p>not supported now through tracks</p> <p>tracks - users can see all viewable tracks, and edit any editable tracks</p> <p>yes</p> <p>by track</p> <p>highlighted text, note next to text, toggles on (table)</p> <p>yes</p> <p>search text, displays results as new track</p> <p>no</p> <p>no</p> <p>technically supported</p> <p>yes</p> <p>yes - timeline/genome-browser</p> <p>no</p>	<p>University of Waterloo</p> <p>Firefox, Chrome, and Safari browsers</p> <p>Unclear</p> <p>Yes Can share Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>yes, images</p> <p>no</p> <p>no</p> <p>no</p> <p>no</p> <p>no</p> <p>no</p> <p>Unclear</p>	<p>Yes, many published papers on interactive pedagogy Yes, Safari, Firefox, Chrome, EI(latest version only)</p> <p>easy-medium</p> <p>Yes 2 levels, public or private</p> <p>no settings within annotation tool, groups organized by moodle system</p> <p>yes</p> <p>yes</p> <p>yes</p> <p>yes</p> <p>yes</p> <p>yes</p> <p>yes</p> <p>yes</p> <p>no</p> <p>yes</p>

Media Thread	NB	openmargin	Open Video Annotation Project	Prism	Public Poetics
Media Thread is an open source Django web annotation system that allows instructors using Mediathread to designate online collections of source materials for a given course and post assignments. Their students are able to lift video, audio, and image items from these collections, annotate them, and embed them into compositions within a course-specific website. Can only be used for images and video, which are imported from other websites. You cannot upload your own texts. It does feature a sandbox-like feature for assignments and compositions, which can be shared.	A tool for collaborative annotation of pdf documents, designed for class use, to replace "note" pages.	openmargin is an iPad app for social commenting on texts. It is developed by openmargin, a Dutch startup. Users upload their (DRM-free ePub) texts to the iPad app, comment on the texts, and can view their annotations from the iPad app or from the web interface. From the web interface users can browse annotations by text, and explore annotations by location in the text. Openmargin is positioned as a platform for discussion around texts, and is in an open beta at the moment. As of June 2012, development seems to be slowed or delayed.	Based on open technologies out of Harvard, the Open Video Annotation Project offers a simple way for anyone to create media rich commentaries on fragments of video. Students and educators now can easily tag or take notes on a video, make revision study guides that are private or open to the public, share commentaries or engage in threaded discussions about a segment of a video. Researchers can mark or tag sectors of a video and add detailed notes that can be exported in common interoperable text formats for further qualitative analysis.	Prism is a tool for "crowdsourced interpretation" of texts. It is developed by a group of graduate students in the Praxis program at the Scholars' Lab at UVa. Prism allows users to mark up (not comment on) texts with a restricted range of interpretation categories. As Prism is a grad student project, it is funded by the Praxis program (pilot years 2011-2013), which is funded by a Mellon grant to the Scholarly Communication Institute at UVa. Prism is an open-source project, hosted on github/scholarslab/prism. It is built on Rails.	A tool for collaborative commentary and conversation on poetry, developed by David McClure (currently at the Scholars' Lab at UVa, tool developed before joining). Not quite annotations, but "listings", more like forum posts that are linked to specific places in the text. Each word is individually wrapped (HTML) and processed with js, which limits the effectiveness of the tool to about 1000 lines. http://publicpoetics.org/current/poem/poems/demo/template.php
http://mediathread.columbia.edu/node/1		http://www.openmargin.com/	http://openvideoannotation.org/index.php	http://prism.scholarslab.org/	
Columbia University		No, tech start-up. iPad for annotation, any browser for viewing based on reviews of the app, medium, with some bugs	The Open Video Annotation Project is an initiative led by the Center for Hellenic Studies and supported by a grant from the Becas Talentia program from the Junta de Andalucia, Spain.	Yes, part of the pilot Praxis program. All browsers.	Created by David McClure, seems to be a stand-alone app and not part of a research grant. All
easy-medium				easy (limited)	medium-hard
No--Only Image and Video Yes Yes		yes, as long as it is an epub file with no DRM annotations are public	Coming soon Yes Unknown	Not supported, but technically possible. All markup public	not yet all public texts for public discussion
Yes		no explicit groups, suggests users based on activity and interests	Adding functionality	No groups	no
Only images and video. Cannot upload texts.		no, text only in web interface: can view all annotations of a user across all texts, or all annotations by all users on one text	"View Annotations" button	no (no comments, only markup according to pre-defined categories)	no, but easy quoting of original text
yes			You can click and adjust the range slider handles to fine-tune the start and end times of your annotation	by category of interpretation only	only by portion of the text referenced
yes		in web interface: displays quote by location in the text, and displays annotation under it.		Over the text, with different colors	in a separate facet of the browser, on the side
yes		yes, annotations are separate instances	Yes	yes, annotation is on a word-by-word basis	supported
yes no		no no	Click the "View Annotations" button to browse and discover other annotations. Annotations are stacked chronologically. Scroll through annotations using the mouse scroll wheel or trackpad. Mouse-over annotation bars to reveal comments and location. Click the yellow bar to playback the annotated video fragment.	no no	no no
Yes		no yes, any language supported, site in English, few texts in other languages	Yes Video	yes in that markup is tagged	no - only in the sense that you can tag a listing with a particular place in the text
Audio & visual, not text		no, ePub only		yes, French, German, Spanish, English	yes, no right-to-left however
		annotations visualized according to position in text no	Click the "Chart Annotation" button to visualize where the annotations are taking place on the video timeline. This view gives you a quick "temperature" read of where the commenting activity is happening on the video. It displays the maximum peaks of all the annotations and the total number of annotations.	one functional - category of word; several designs no	no yes, key feature

**Text-Image Linking Environment (TILE)**

**VidBolt**

The Text-Image Linking Environment (TILE) is a web-based tool for creating and editing image-based electronic editions and digital archives of humanities texts.

Vidbolt is a social video platform where you can add or "bolt" comments to a moment in the video timeline, see comments from your friends and people you follow using our comment filters, get a visual snapshot of what people find interesting using our Vidbolt heatmap, and see your comments integrated with the video's comment stream.

<http://mith.umd.edu/tile/>

<https://beta.vidbolt.com/about>

TILE is a collaboration between the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities (Doug Reside, Dave Lester) and Indiana University (Dot Porter, John Walsh), and supported by an NEH Preservation and Access grant. Don't think it's been worked on since 2011.

Tech start-up in Buffalo, NY

All

easy

Yes

Upload video into youtube, then can upload into VidBolt  
yes

No

No

Operating through Facebook

Just videos

Yes

When you get to an interesting moment in the video, start typing your comment and the video will pause. Once you are finished writing, hit enter or click the "Add Comment" button. You have now bolted your comment to the moment when the video was paused. Your comment will show up in the comment stream and on the timeline.

Yes

Can search by friends

No

No

Video

Yes

No

No

No

A tool for collaborative annotation of pdf documents, designed for class use, to replace "note" pages.

