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It Takes a Village to Build a Sea Level Rise App: Civic Hacking as an Approach to Informing Citizens About Sea Level Rise in Miami

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I am not a scientist...



ONA Journalism Curriculum Challenge Grant

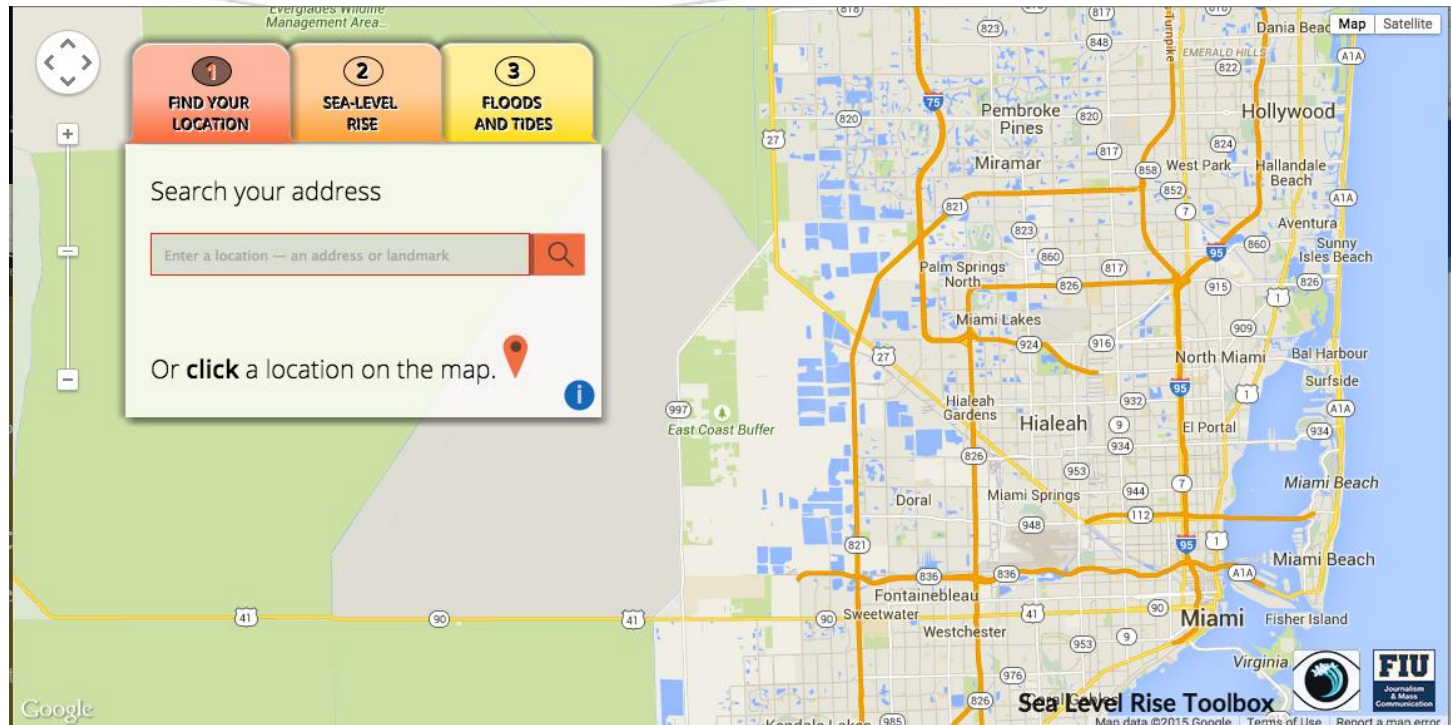
King Tide Day



Student-Produced Documentary



Sea Level Rise Toolbox



<http://eyesontherise.org/app>

Working Group on Environment, Science & Risk Communication • IAMCR 2015

SLR Toolbox: Goals

- ◆ Focus on **South Florida**. Inform citizens of the potential risk of sea level rise to their homes and businesses.
- ◆ Make it **easy to use for a general news audience** (ie: not scientists)
- ◆ Create a **database of flood reports** so that citizens may better understand when and where flooding occurs.
- ◆ Allow citizens to contribute **crowdsourced geographic information** to the flood report database.

Hacking the App

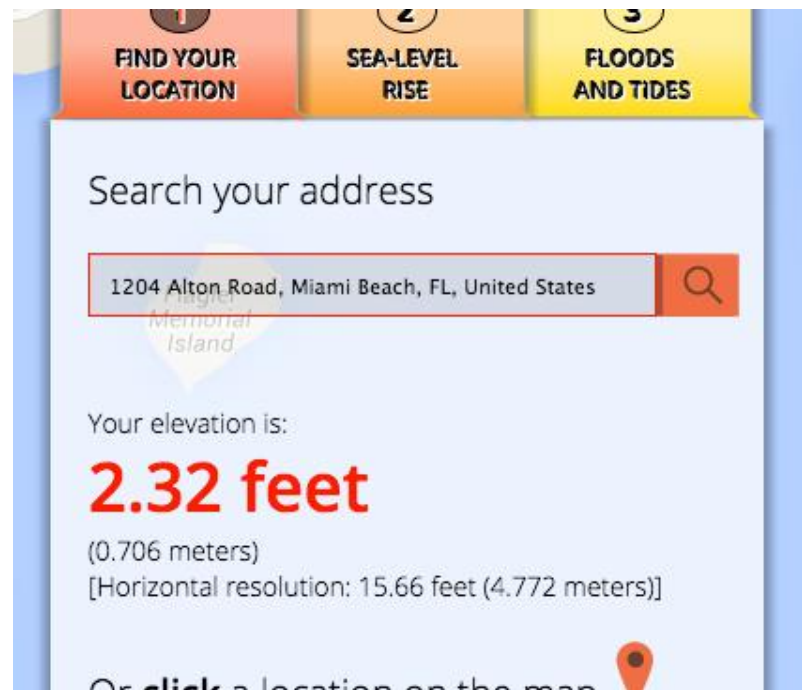


Hacking the App

- ◆ **Brainstormed** ideas for features and designs
 - ◆ Students, scientists, faculty, hacktivists, citizens
- ◆ Identified **data sources**
 - ◆ Code for Miami, Miami-Dade County, Open 311
- ◆ **Created prototype**
 - ◆ Conducted user testing on students, citizens, hacktivists
- ◆ **Tested and redesigned prototype**
 - ◆ Worked with Fusion
- ◆ **Launched application** at BarCamp Miami

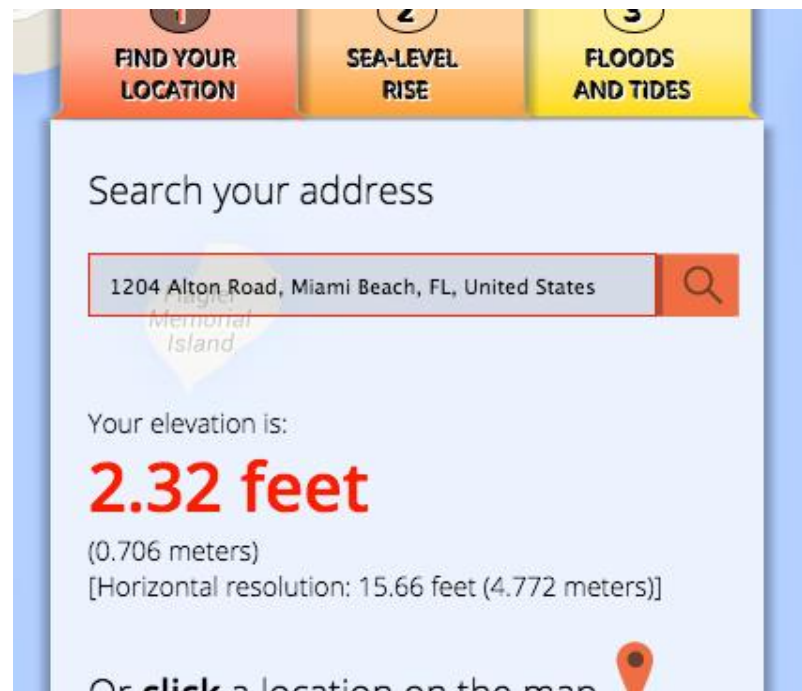
SLR Toolbox: Challenges

- ◆ Politics
- ◆ Representing **years vs. feet**
- ◆ Creating **interface for a lay audience**
- ◆ Providing **context**
- ◆ **Scientific information vs. journalism**
 - ◆ Google Elevation vs. LiDAR
 - ◆ Visualizing .5 feet on 1-foot scale



SLR Toolbox: Next Steps

- ◆ Increase transparency of data
- ◆ Build and design native IOS and Android applications
- ◆ Implement Flood Report Database
 - ◆ Add local sources
- ◆ Create citizen flood report tool
 - ◆ K-12 flood report curriculum
- ◆ Integrate narrative into application



Thank You!

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