ESRI Web Apps & Story Maps
What are they?

Configurable apps with a pre-set layout that let you enhance the maps you create in ArcGIS Online by making a user-friendly layout and combining maps and other media to tell a story.
ArcGIS Online

- Online companion to ArcGIS Desktop and ArcGIS Pro
- Allows you to easily create maps and conduct basic analyses (with institutional account)
- Easy to share completed maps online
Web Apps

• Apps guide users to view and interact with your maps in a specific way.
• There are apps that let you collect and edit data, compare maps and layers, display a scene, summarize data, make a gallery, provide location information, etc.

https://www.arcgis.com/apps/LocalPerspective/index.html
https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapCarousel/index.html
https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Profile/index.html

Jennie Murack, MIT Libraries, 2017
Story Maps

- A specific type of app that integrates multimedia content (photos, videos, web sites, etc.) with maps.

  http://arcg.is/2fCJqnC
  http://arcg.is/2gjh7dQ
  http://arcg.is/1LLjBbi
Why use one?

• Easy way to educate and influence people about an issue.
  – Often used by government agencies, non-profits, etc.
• No programming skills required
• Integrate multimedia content with maps
• They are fun (show your friends all the photos from your latest trip)!
Cautions

• There are limits on the number of slides, photos, etc. so this is not good for showing large amounts of data or other content.

• Embedded content (web sites, photos, etc.) may not always work or may be difficult to format.

• Can be easy to mislead people since you are not only creating the maps but guiding how people interact with them.
Find your own data: Formats

• ArcGIS Online will accept a variety of file formats.
• Shapefiles are the standard GIS file format and consist of several files that are zipped.

Other popular formats include .gpx (from a gps unit or watch), a list of addresses or coordinates in a .csv, or links to shapefiles.
Find your own data: Sources

• MIT sources
  – GeoWeb: use any web browser (includes data downloads as well as DVDs and Maps in the library)

• Internet
  – http://libguides.mit.edu/gis (Links to data sources)
  – Google search
  – OpenStreetMap.org (download in shapefile format from Metro Extracts)

• Create your own
  – GPS, digitizing, etc.

Not finding what you want? GIS data purchase requests? Contact GIS Help (gishelp@mit.edu).