PROJECT OVERVIEW

Early twentieth century New Orleans was home to approximately 5,000 bars and a vibrant drinking culture, but during Prohibition (1919-1933), Federal agents raided thousands of residences and establishments throughout the city for the possession or sale of alcoholic beverages. *The Times-Picayune*, a New Orleans newspaper, published daily the names and addresses of those individuals and businesses in violation of the Dry Laws who were consequently arrested, detained, and/or raided. Intemperance.org is an Omeka archive and Neatline exhibit dedicated to documenting and mapping these raids. The map was subsequently redeveloped for display at the Museum of the American Cocktail in New Orleans. This poster explores the challenges of creating digitized historical spaces as faced through the design and subsequent exhibition of the interactive, open-access map.
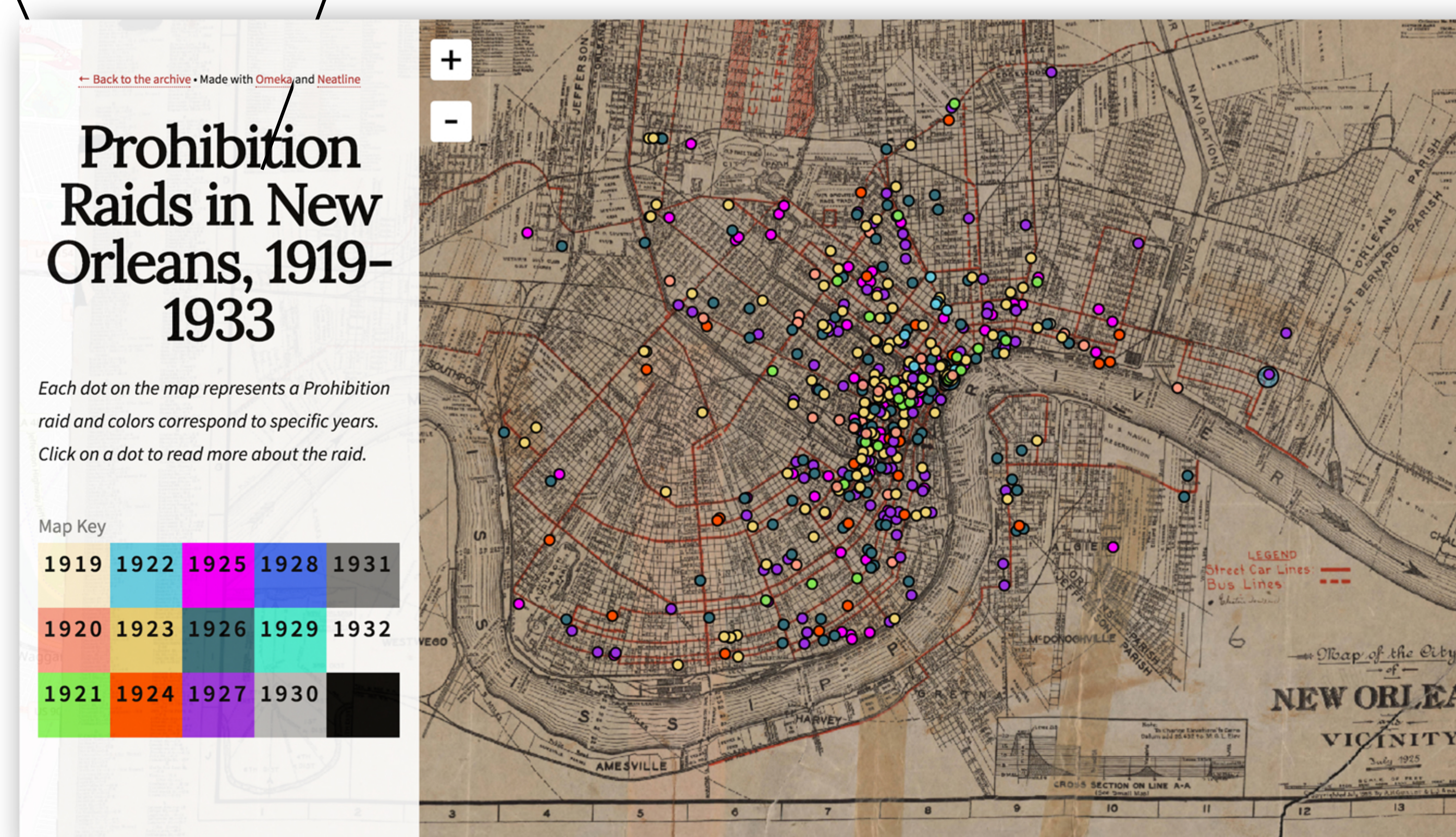
1. INTEMPERANCE.ORG

The project aims to archive the impact Prohibition had on the lives, drinking habits, and neighborhoods of New Orleanians. The website has over 1,000 raids documented in and around the city of New Orleans, data-mined from The Times-Picayune. Other project goals include (a) making historical space accessible and captivating for both academic and general publics and (b) examining the role that the cultural locations of bars and restaurants played in creating spaces of leisure.

2. OMEKA / NEATLINE

The raids documented in Intemperance.org's Omeka archive have been mapped in a Neatline exhibit using the Starter Theme for Neatline from Scholar's Lab. This theme links the Neatline waypoint to its corresponding Omeka item. Viewers can see details of each individual Prohibition raid and read a description of the exhibit.
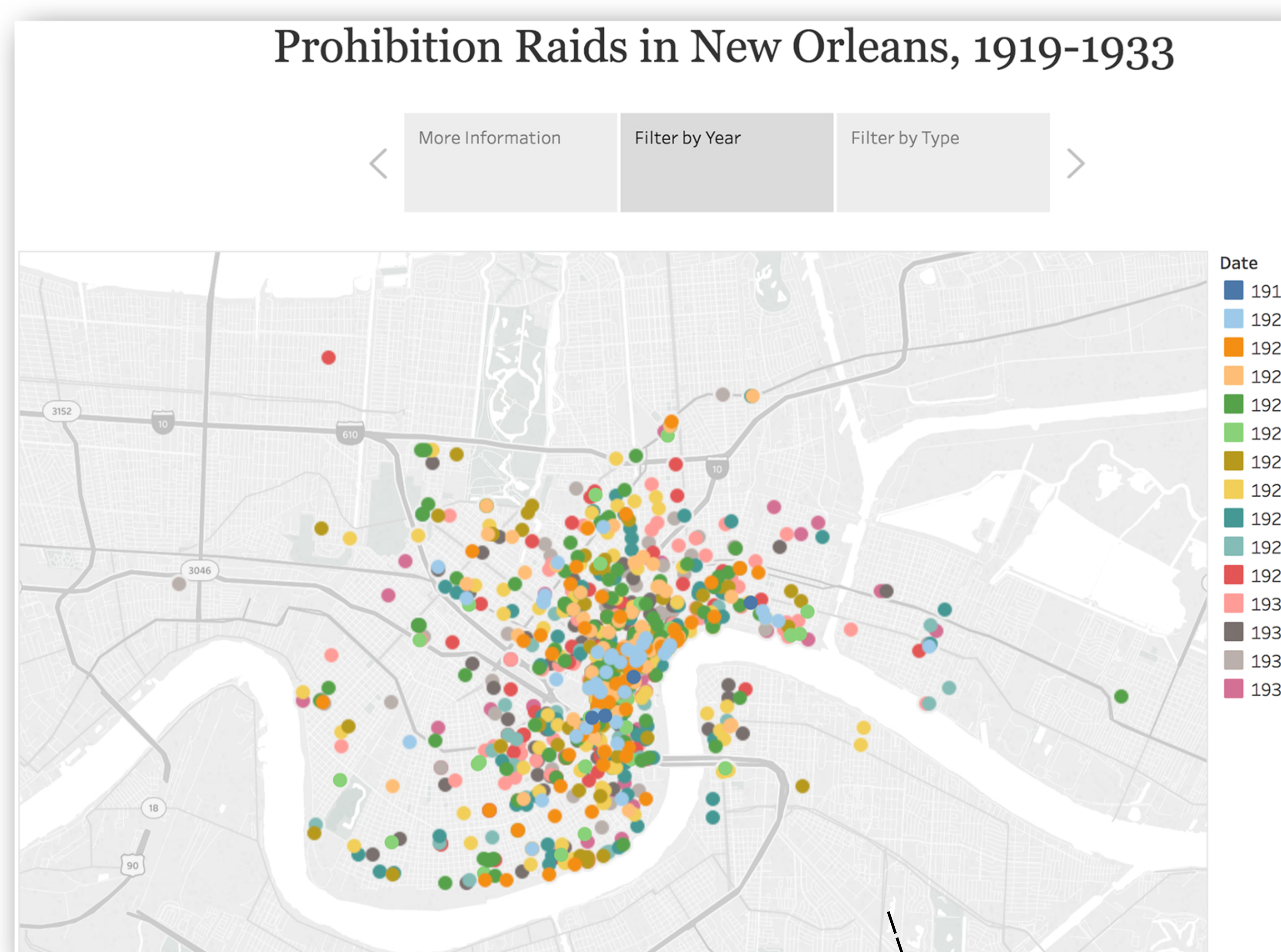

3. EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN COCKTAIL

When the project was to be displayed in The Museum of the American Cocktail in New Orleans, significant mobile interactivity issues occurred when opened on a standard Android tablet. This included (a) an inability to zoom onto the map, (b) a prolonged lag when any point was clicked.

MAPPING PROHIBITION
the challenges of digitally (re)creating historical spaces
Hannah C. Griggs, Emory University

4. TABLEAU

As a museum exhibit, the project had to consider a new set of accessibility goals, and we had to modify the exhibition by changing the visualization platform to Tableau Public. These included (1) optionally reading a description of the exhibit and summarized history; (2) viewing details of each individual Prohibition raid; (3) organizing and viewing raids by year; (4) filtering by type of establishment raided; and (5) zooming in, zooming out, and viewing the page in full.

5. CONCLUSIONS

While both Neatline and Tableau are capable platforms to achieve the goals of this project, each has its own advantages and limitations. Omeka, while optimal for a small scale digital archive like Intemperance.org, does not currently have the mobile accessibility required for a interactive tablet display. On the other hand, Tableau not only circumvents the mobile compatibility issues found with Neatline, but it allows users to interactively filter historical data by year and raid type, a feature not currently possible in Neatline. The insights gained from this project will hopefully aid others embarking on similar projects.

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