EN / HY 500: Digital Humanities
Spring 2015
Sample Tool Review Format

[Title your WordPress entry simply with the name of the tool itself.]

Tool Name:

Version Number/Release Date:

Developer Website:

Reviewed by:

Review Date:

Tags or Keywords: (Pick keywords associated with the tool or its usage. Refer to our lesson on metadata and choose your keywords judiciously.)

General Purpose of Tool: Describe what the tool is designed to do, i.e., what problems it might solve or tasks it might facilitate.

Review: Essay format. Consider some of the following questions: In what ways does the tool perform or not perform its stated function? Are there any bugs or problems that require user work-arounds? Should any special functions of the tool be noted or drawn to the reader's attention? Is the tool adaptable to different needs or unintended uses? If the tool is primarily intended for use on a computer, is it necessary to download software, or does it also function, or solely function, through a web-based interface? If the tool is primarily designed for computer use, does it also have a mobile app version, and if so are the computer and mobile versions compatible and/or do they sync well? Is user-data stored on the user's device (computer or mobile device) or on the cloud or both? Does the tool provide useful user feedback, such as help or error messages? Is the accompanying documentation (help manual) clear, accurate, and simple?

Ease of Use: 1-3 sentences. Who are the primary and/or secondary users for whom the tool was intended (scholars, students, general public, etc.)? Is the tool suitable for its intended users (complexity, user-friendliness, etc.)? Is it easy for novices, is there some learning curve, or does it require technological expertise?

Cost:

Requirements: Technical requirements, including need for a particular OS (Windows, Mac, Linux, iPhone, Android, etc.), type of computer or mobile device, or a specific program (a Firefox plugin would require Firefox, for instance). If the tool works on multiple devices and platforms, indicate here which device(s) (computer, mobile device, etc.) and OS you used to conduct your review.

Rival or Comparable Tools: List one or two similar tools. While it is not necessary to provide a full review of rival tools, briefly list any pros or cons your tool might have compared to similar tools.

Other Reviews: Provide links to any other reviews online which you consulted.