

Duke of Digitalia: A Digital Collecting Quest

By Kara M. McClurken and
Elizabeth Mitchell

Do Not Open Scenario Until The Quest Has Begun!

Disclaimer: This tabletop exercise has been adapted from a modern day example. Please keep the following in mind:

- 1) This is an exercise meant to get you thinking about how prepared you need to be to rapidly respond to a tragic event. Please do not spend your time critiquing the realism of the scenario.
- 2) You can choose to respond based on your own institution's readiness or respond more generally to what best practice might dictate
- 3) Content warning: Some topics discussed today in the scenario and in people's personal experiences may be difficult to hear and difficult to talk about. If at any time you need to take a break from this scenario, please feel free to do so.
- 4) Please stay on the current page in the scenario until directed to proceed forward, **do not read ahead!**
- 5) In spite of the potentially difficult topic, this is meant to be fun--so play your part!

“The Duke of Digitalia”



Map adapted from: "allzanth" by Tony Dowler, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/tonydowler/59722284>

Tuesday Afternoon:

You and your friends are enjoying a bit of ale and some stew for lunch at The Rusted Spoon discussing the upcoming visit of the Duke of Digitalia, whose claim to the dukedom has not been without controversy. Many say his brother's death during a hunting accident was no accident at all. Just then a scout rushes in--you overhear her telling the innkeeper that an army of supporters of the nephew of the Duke have been seen marching towards the West Gate. Their presence is confirmed by a quick search on Fantasy Twitter and other social media, where reports of armed troops carrying anti-Duke signs are rushing in.

The controversial Duke is scheduled to speak in the Town Square later that evening, across from the Hall of Records, where you work. The Hall of Records is the region's archive of important documents and lore.

You carry some responsibility for collecting and preserving the history and lore for your city.

Rapid Response Questions:

- How do you plan to document the official and unofficial response to the event?
- What tools and workflows currently exist to capture the content being created?
- What do you do first? Will you stay in the inn, go back to the Hall or run home to avoid what could be a rowdy crowd?
- Who can you turn to for assistance and support?

Notes:

Tuesday Evening - Wednesday Morning:

Folks have been pouring into the city from the countryside all afternoon, both to hear the Duke's speech and to get out of the path of the opposing army. Crowds are much heavier than anticipated. Roads around the town square are completely blocked, either by streams of folks crossing the street or donkeys and carriages looking for a place to park. Folks are carrying signs and shouting. Many are openly carrying weapons, which is raising tensions.

As the sun goes down, things intensify. Someone starts throwing bricks, rocks, and lit torches into the crowd. A group grabs a few barriers and uses them as battering rams in an attempt to gain access to the home where the Duke is known to have been staying. Fights begin to break out. Guards respond by getting rough with the crowds and making many arrests. Much of the action is captured by artists sketching the events in real time or by those in the crowds using fantasy cellphones to upload to social media platforms.

Family and friends are sending birds asking if you are ok. You know several of your colleagues were planning on attending the Duke's speech and you have heard rumors that several ended up needing a healer. You stay up most of the night glued to your magic mirror, your fantasy cellphone, and your fantasy computer all at once.

Wednesday morning arrives before you know it. Classes at the Collegia are canceled for Wednesday and many businesses are closed as they deal with the damage to their shops. The city streets are a mess, with town criers and city guard documenting the scene. Signs and trash are everywhere. The Hall of Records is open but minimally staffed, as many stayed home due to injuries or damage to their homes. In spite of the limited staffing, your boss has told you that you need to create a mechanism to collect stories from the event. They have given you until Monday to come up with a plan and build a tool that will help you automate the story collection.

You gather your colleagues who are free together to brainstorm. Some of your instruments have been broken in the chaos. Some of your colleagues are too upset to focus on work.

→ Turn page for Rapid Response Questions

