Dear Mr. Meredith: Mapping Correspondence Received by James Meredith During His Integration of the University of Mississippi
Notes for Powerpoint Slides

Slides 5 and 6:
Sample of 143 "anti" letters transcribed in 2014

Slide 7:
Broad scope of geographic locations from which the letters had been sent.

Not just Mississippi, the South, or the US - all over the world.

Thought that plotting letters that had a return address onto a map using GIS would give us a unique view of the collection.

Slide 8:
Who's heard of GIS?

When I say something like "digital map," what do you think of?

I think of digital humanities and digital history as the marriage of technology and humanities research or critical thinking. Using digital tools allows researchers to explore data in different ways than they’re able to with traditional scholarship.

Digital maps take large amounts of data – such as a list of return addresses – and visualize the data to make it easier to digest and analyze. Looking at a map with data points on it, it is it much easier to get a big picture view of a collection than, for instance, a spreadsheet full of metadata. This in turn allows the researcher to make new connections and inferences that may not have been apparent – or even possible to uncover – with more traditional research methods. It also makes this information more accessible, as the casual viewer is able to interact with the data in an engaging way rather than being faced with overwhelming amounts of text.

Slide 10:
You may notice a high concentration of "anti" letters in a certain part of the country

Multiple reasons for this:

- anti letters taken from business professor who had them transcribed, we don't know how he chose his sample
- currently more anti letters on map than pro - 87 "anti" 77 "pro", several of the pro are international