Eastern Apps: Visualizing Historic Prison Data

Guiding Questions
- Why do you think the clerk recorded his thoughts on whether a person could be reformed?
  - Do you think this was helpful or hurtful to released inmates?
  - Do you think attitudes like this affected the chances of someone becoming incarcerated again?
- What do the various word clouds in this project show us about the priorities of those running the prison?
- These records were made by prison officials. Who were these officials? Were their recorded observations about the inmates more objective or subjective?
  - What do we miss by only having sources from one side or perspective?
- Why do you think certain facts and information about inmates was recorded, but other information was left blank?

Classroom Activities
- Explore the Word Frequencies app and different keywords and variables.
  - What patterns do you notice?
  - Why do you think this specific information was recorded upon prison admission?
- Explore the Sentencing of Inmates app. Do you notice any inequities in sentences length, especially based on place of birth, ethnicity, and literacy?
  - Why do you think literacy is a factor?