A Research Partnership Toward Social Digital Scholarship in the Humanities and the Social Sciences: Implementing New Knowledge Environments 2.0

“Infrastructure that Scales Across Interdisciplinary Groups”

Coalition for Networked Information
North Carolina State U
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Implementing New Knowledge Environments

Please visit our Website!
What is INKE?

- A collaborative group of researchers, organizations, & partners who explore the digital humanities, digital scholarly communication, & the affordances of electronic text
- Also, a DH intervention in scholarly publishing and fields like book history
- International team, primarily based in Canada
- 7 Year project cycle: 2008-2015
Where Did it Begin?  @DHSI

- In the interdisciplinary collaboratory of the digital humanities, at a very early DHSI
- See http://dhsio.org
Early Concerns

- Understanding the book, scholarly journals, monographs, & editions as “knowledge environments”
- Issues with e-books & e-textuality
- History of reading & text
- Prototyping as research activity
INKE Foundations

• 4 Foundational Teams: Information Management (IM), Interface Design (ID), Textual Studies (TS), & User Experience (UX)

• Funded by a $2.5 million SSHRC Major Collaborative Research Initiatives (MCRI) grant, + $10.4 million in contributions from institutional & research partners
Initial Research Questions

1. How does the Internet change the way we read?
2. How do we interact with information in new digital spaces?
3. What new features can improve online reading environments?
4. How can we better design the data for online environments involving reading?
5. How do we work together to reach our objectives?
Initial Objectives

1. Document features of previous textual forms;
2. Advance understanding of the impact of the digital on reading;
3. Conceptualize new knowledge environments (and spaces for knowledge) & develop tools;
4. Create dynamic & functional reading interfaces & prototypes;
5. Ensure process, documentation, & planning facilitate INKE work.
Research Areas, Years 1-7

- Year 1 (2009-2010): Foundation
- Year 2 (2010-2011): Corpora
- Year 7 (2015-2016): Sustainability, Consolidation, & Dissemination; Partner Outreach & Integration
Who is INKE Today?

• **Director:** Ray Siemens (U Victoria)
• **Interface Design (ID) Team Lead:** Stan Ruecker (Illinois Institute of Technology)
• **Modelling & Prototyping (M&P) Team Leads:** Jon Bath (U Sask) & Jon Saklofske (Acadia U)
• + this year, as active participants: 11 other researchers, 19 GRAs, 1 post-doc, 2 programmers, an administrative team, & many affiliated researchers & organizations
What Have We Done?

• Prototypes
• Collaborative Projects
• Publications
• Conferences & Community Meetings
• Methods & Training
ArchBook

ArchBook is an open-access, peer-reviewed collection of richly illustrated essays about specific design features in the history of the book. Our goal is to make the diverse history of the book – especially the under-appreciated parts of that history – available to students, researchers, and the public. ArchBook is designed to complement more definitive and encyclopedic resources like the Cambridge History of the Book in Britain with essays that target connections between the history and future of books and reading. A typical ArchBook entry will follow a specific textual feature through its development (or disappearance) across historical periods, with an eye to the continuities and discontinuities the feature might have with digital reading environments. Each entry offers a definition of a textual feature and rationale for its importance, an historical overview of that feature, and (optionally) one or more spotlight sections offering critical arguments about that feature's digital reinvention. ArchBook seeks to combine the public accessibility of Wikipedia, the scholarly standards and original research of a peer-reviewed history of the book, and the critical provocativeness of a project like Raymond Williams’s Keywords.

Although ArchBook makes no claim to exhaustiveness, the project can serve as a reference resource for students and teachers of book history. However, unlike entries in a traditional reference resource, ArchBook articles are written specifically to provoke further thought, discussion, and practical experimentation among all readers with a stake in the future of books and reading. In the spirit of the blank pages for readers’ notes that Raymond Williams includes at the end of Keywords, each ArchBook entry contains a post-publication discussion section with links to the project blog and related wikis, where readers are invited to continue the discussion. The visual examples of textual features provided in the essays are supplemented by a larger open-access image database. Researchers, students, and teachers are welcome to use these images provided they respect the usage and attribution policies of the source libraries (named in the image metadata).

Lead researchers: Alan Galey (U Toronto) & Richard Cunningham (Acadia U), TS Team
Institutions involved: U Toronto, U Saskatchewan
Consulted: Brent Nelson (U Saskatchewan) & Paul Werstein (U Western Ontario)
arlbook.ca
Dynamic Table of Contexts

Lead researcher: Stan Ruecker (IIT), ID Team
Institutions involved: U Alberta
http://www.ualbertapроjects.info/dyntoc/dyntoc_v3_5/Main.html
Bubblelines

Lead researcher: Stan Ruecker (IIT), ID Team
Consulted: Ann Blandford, Sara Faisal, Carlos Fiorentino, Alejandro Giacometti, Stéfan Sinclair, Claire Warwick
http://docs.voyant-tools.org/tools/bubblelines/
Lead researcher: Jon Saklofske (Acadia U), M&P Team
Institutions involved: Acadia U
Consulted: Jean Marc-Giffin, Alix Shield, Jake Bruce, Ian Brunton, Stephen MacNeil, Marc Muschler, Rick Giles, Jon Bath, Jentry Sayers, Susan Brown, Stan Ruecker, Bill Bowen, Richard Cunningham
A Social Edition of the Devonshire MS

Lead researcher: Ray Siemens (U Victoria), M&P Team
Institutions involved: U Victoria
Consulted: DMS Editorial Group, DMS Advisory Group, Iter, CWRC
http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/The_Devonshire_Manuscript; @Devonshire_MS
(Select) Publications


Methods & Training

- Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI; dhsi.org)
  - ~600 participants in 2014; ~700 in 2015
  - Annual training workshop @ U Victoria
  - Focus on community building, knowledge transfer, & skills training
- DH Training Network
Current Concerns

- Scholarly communication & production
- Online reading & writing environments
- Sustainability & dissemination
- Partner outreach & integration
Current Research Questions

1. How can we reimagine scholarly communication as *open social scholarship*?
2. How can electronic scholarly journals and/or monographs evolve beyond their traditional forms?
3. How can we make meaningful contributions to the development of current & future online interaction environments?
Where Next? INKE 2.0 (2016+)
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Goal: To explore, research, and build environments for open social scholarship
Where Next? Partners, Affiliates, Associates...

- Advanced Research Consortium
- Canadian Association of Learned Journals
- Canadian Association of Research Libraries
- Canadian Institute for Studies in Publishing, Simon Fraser U
- Canadian Research Knowledge Network
- Canadian Society for Digital Humanities
- Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory
- Canadiana.org
- CANARIE
- Centre de recherche interuniversitaire sur les humanités numériques
- Compute Canada
- Digital Humanities Research Group, U Western Sydney
- Digital Humanities Summer Institute
- Digital Public Library of America
- Donne Prose
- Editing Modernism in Canada
- E-READ
- Érudit
- Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences
- Gov't Communications & Public Engagement Humanities and Fine Arts Digital Research Centre
- Iter
- MakerLab in the Humanities
- Modernist Versions Project
- Public Knowledge Project
- Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, & Publishing
- The Exchange Lab
- U Victoria Libraries
- U Passau
- Voyant Tools
- & more!

- eHumanities Group, KNAW
Where Next? Forward-looking Research Questions

1. What is the best way for active researchers to work with partners, organizations, & others to contribute to the national and international digital scholarly infrastructure?

2. How can we ensure in-process electronic publishing platforms reflect interdisciplinary concerns?

3. How do we leverage past & current initiatives with a shifting academic future?
Where Next? INKE 2.0 Objectives

- *develop & implement* creative strategies for engaging, cultivating, & disseminating knowledge & data
- *enrich & extend* teaching, learning, & research through alternative modes of inquiry
- *open & combine* closed-off silos of information so that everyone can harness the potential of complex data
- *integrate & share* projects that are useful to more than one constituency in multiple contexts
Where Next? Upcoming Concerns

1. Humanities-based digital scholarship & electronic publishing, *to disseminate research to a larger audience*
2. Training & advocacy, *to create a strong community*
3. Open access, *to share work as easily as possible*
4. Academic prototyping & critical making, *to reach new conclusions through alternative methodologies*
Electronic Scholarly Publishing (1/4)

- Fostering digital knowledge production
- Experimenting with scholarly application of mainstream tools & methods
- Prioritizing open access & open source
- Creating new platforms, tools, & modes of scholarship
- Re-envisioning peer review
Training & Advocacy (2/4)

- **Building** community around shared interested and methods
- **Focusing** on student & professional training
- **Establishing** a partner network, with the library community and beyond
  - e.g. Digital Humanities Summer Institute & DH Training Network
  - e.g. Canadian Society of Digital Humanities/Société canadienne des humanités numériques (CSDH/SCHN), ADHO, MLA, [C]ARL
  - e.g. Compute Canada / cyberinfrastructure
Open Access (3/4)

- Create, share, & disseminate knowledge
- Integrate with scholarly production
- Prioritize open source
- Commit to accessibility & availability
Academic Prototyping & Critical Making (4/4)

- Collaborate on projects with tangible results (praxis)
- Integrate technology-based methodologies
- Design in conscientious, application-oriented ways
- Learn in hands-on environments
Upcoming Conferences & Gatherings

• INKE Whistler Gathering 2016
  Annual INKE partners meeting
  January 2016, Whistler, BC, Canada

• Modelling Conference
  June 2016, @ DHSI in Victoria
Thank you
Implementing New Knowledge Environments (INKE)
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