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Building Scholarly Resources for Wider Public Engagement

ABSTRACTS

Digital and Legal Issues in the Digital Humanities

Matt Vitins and Anna Crowe

This presentation has two parts. It starts with legal issues. We map out some intellectual property and other laws that affect digital humanities projects. We note tensions between philosophies of open access and laws concerned with proprietary rights. The talk then takes a sharp turn towards the practical. It lists some legal issues researchers should think about when planning digital humanities projects. It then describes standard legal documentation – privacy policies, end-user terms, consents and licences – and explains what these documents do and how they can be useful. Part 2 considers data ethics. It looks at some of the privacy implications big data and open data projects entail. We outline the contours of the debates and discussions occurring in this area and explore how researchers can address emerging ethical issues. Finally, we propose a series of questions to help guide researchers through the legal and ethical minefield we describe.

Reassembling the Republic of Letters One Metadatum at a Time: Digital Humanism in the Service of Traditional Scholarship

Professor Howard Hotson

Scholarship requires spadework. Spadework takes time. But time is scarce, especially for early career researchers. And so is exposure and public outreach, of the kind increasingly demanded by funding agencies but difficult to square with the demands of meticulous scholarship. In this session, Professor Hotson will sketch plans to develop Early Modern Letters Online into a platform on which early career researchers can assemble, archive, publish, and visualise the fruits of meticulous scholarship in intellectual exchange in the early modern period without financial or technical entanglements while also collaborating in the development of digital tools designed to enhance both the assembling of data and the projection of scholarly result into and beyond the academic domain.

The Zooniverse: Crowdsourcing Research with the Public

Dr Robert Simpson

The Zooniverse is a citizen science platform that has recruited more than million online volunteers to help classify galaxies, transcribe ancient papyri and even discover exoplanets. This talk will focus the Zooniverse's digital humanities projects, which ask for the public's help in transcribing digitised records.

Sharing Data from a Researcher's Perspective

Dr Ernesto Priego and Dr James Baker

This session will offer a space to consider the relationships between research in the arts and humanities and the use and reuse of research data. Some thoughts on what research data is, the difference between available and useable data, mechanisms for sharing, and what types of sharing encourage reuse will open the session. Through structured group work, the remainder of the session will encourage participants to reflect on their own research data, to consider what they would want to keep, to share with restrictions, or to share with reuse, and the reasons for these choices.

“Sharing is difficult” – was Goethe right?

Michael Popham

In 2004, when the Bodleian Libraries entered into a collaboration with Google to digitize books from our C19th holdings, the emphasis was very much on opening up our collections to the public rather than building a resource for scholars. Ten years on, it is enlightening to review the products of this endeavour and consider the extent to which these expectations have been both realized and subverted.

Crowdsourcing in the Community

Dr Ylva Berglund Prytz

Using examples from large and small projects and local and international initiatives, this presentation will show how the Oxford Community Collection model has been used to create high-quality digital collections by combing the power of the crowd with the strength of targeted interaction and support.

The Sound of the Crowd

David Tomkins

David will provide an overview of the What's the score? project, the Bodleian's first (and, to date, only) foray into crowdsourcing. What's the score? is a collaboration with Zooniverse which seeks to increase access to a collection of uncatalogued 19th-century music scores through a combination of digitization and the creation of descriptive data and other enhancements by the public. He will also describe a number of community engagement activities relating to other projects undertaken by the Bodleian Digital Library.

Early English Books Online Text Creation Partnership

Judith Siefring

The Early English Books Online Text Creation Partnership (EEBO-TCP), a collaboration between the Universities of Oxford and Michigan and the commercial publisher ProQuest, creates fully transcribed and encoded XML editions of works printed in English in the period 1475-1700. The JISC-funded SECT: Sustaining the EEBO-TCP Corpus in Transition project (www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/eebotcp/SECT) looked in detail at the impact of the EEBO-TCP collection, and at issues related to its future curation and sustainability. EEBO-TCP, like many digital humanities projects, relies on external project funding which is limited, and therefore may struggle to maintain and manage the collection in the future. SECT suggested positive strategies for the future, but, as this presentation will explore, there are numerous challenges ahead as we try to implement these. One major challenge is the release into the public domain of the first 25,000 EEBO-TCP texts on 1 January 2015. How can EEBO-TCP best engage the wider public with this exciting collection given our funding and time constraints?

Electronic Enlightenment Project

Dr Robert McNamee

To be confirmed.

ArcGIS and Mapping the Humanities

Dr Michael Athanson

To be confirmed.

Getting Medieval, Getting Palaeography: The DigiPal Database of Anglo-Saxon Manuscripts

Dr Stewart Brookes

The DigiPal database offers a web-based framework for the study of medieval handwriting. The computer-assisted tools we've developed allow for searching for letter-forms and their features; for sharing linked data (including annotations created by users); and provide access to hundreds of images of eleventh-century Old English manuscripts. But how is medieval culture perceived outside academe? Can we engage the public imagination when it comes to medieval manuscripts? And what are the advantages and disadvantages, of computer-assisted palaeography?

KEYNOTE Scholarly Social Machines

SPEAKER *Professor David de Roure*

Academic publications have successfully supported research communication for some 350 years. However, research practice is changing dramatically, particularly with the advent of digital techniques and data sources. Are traditional scholarly publications still fit for purpose?

We can already see new digital artefacts being shared, and new socio-technical knowledge infrastructure being created in the form of many social websites, for example Twitter and Wikipedia. The ecosystems of these websites are observably different from their other uses when we look at public engagement with scholarly communication.

This talk will describe these as examples of "Social Machines", ranging from social media sites, Wikipedia, citizen science and social editions, to software and data repositories. Viewing research communication through the lens of Social Machines may help us understand its ecosystem and better design new machines. Their study informs a perspective on the future of scholarly communication.