Old Texts Made New: EEBO, ECCO, And the Impact on Literary Scholarship

Something happens to a text when it goes online: it is virtually transformed. When a whole critical mass of texts goes online, the effect is multiplied exponentially: scholars suddenly find topics they never dreamed of before. The past several years have seen the emergence of huge online collections like ProQuest’s Early English Books Online with over 150,000 titles listed in Pollard & Redgrave’s Short-Title Catalogue (1475-1640) and Wing’s Short-Title Catalogue (1641-1700). Likewise, Gale’s Eighteenth Century Collections Online purports to deliver “every significant English-language and foreign-language title printed in Great Britain during the Eighteenth Century, along with thousands of important works from the Americas.” How are scholars using these texts in their teaching and research and how is this use affecting the nature and direction of literary scholarship more generally?

"Index Learning": EEBO and Scholarship in the Humanities – Jesse Lander

Jesse M. Lander (Ph.D., Columbia) teaches Shakespeare, Tudor-Stuart drama, Renaissance, and the history of books at the University of Notre Dame. He is currently working on the connections between print technology, religious polemic, and literary form in early modern England. He has published essays on John Fose’s Book of Martyrs, nationalism, Thomas Heywood’s Edward IV, and Shakespeare in print.

ECCO and Materialism in the Long Eighteenth Century: A Case Study – Helen Thompson


Literary Databases and the Claims of Full-Text Searching – Jeffrey Garrett

Jeffrey Garrett is Assistant University Librarian for Collection Management and Bibliographer for Classics at Northwestern University. Working with colleagues at Northwestern, the University of Michigan, and ProQuest/Chadwyck-Healey, he helped organize the 2002 EEBO Summer Camp in Evanston, which brought together faculty, librarians, and IT experts to help develop a powerful interface for the EEBO Text Creation Partnership.

Moderator – Kristine J. Anderson

Kristine J. Anderson is English and Theatre Bibliographer and Associate Professor of Library Science at Purdue University Libraries. She is Chair of the LES Program Planning Committee for ALA 2005.