ABSTRACTS

Justin Tonra, "Book History and Digital Humanities in the Long Eighteenth Century"

This article examines the current state of research at the intersections of book history and digital humanities within the field of eighteenth-century studies. It addresses the popular and intellectual origins of the nexus between the book and the digital and surveys developments in this area of eighteenth-century studies in the last decade. The article examines current research trends within the field, with a particular focus on large-scale corpora and databases and the use of distant reading methods, and assesses what directions the future might hold for research in book history and digital humanities in the long eighteenth century.

Leah Orr, "From Methods to Conclusions: The Limits of the Knowable in Digital Book History"

This article asks the same question of four different types of sources: traditional literary histories, the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC), contemporary newspaper advertisements, and contemporary records of reading. By examining how these sources represent what was in print in Britain in the year 1728 differently, this article argues that close attention to the methods of digital book history and the origins, assumptions, and limitations of different archives is needed. While digital databases are more comprehensive than previous sources were, they too have limitations—but when used in combination, they can provide new answers to old questions and allow for new avenues of research.

Cassidy Holahan, "Rummaging in the Dark: ECCO as Opaque Digital Archive"

While the staggering breadth of Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) has made it an indispensable research tool for scholars, ECCO is not (and can never be) comprehensive. Yet the scope and bounds of its collection remains obscured. This article outlines the dangers of such archival opacity and begins to shed light on the collection as a whole, including its provenance, history of curatorial decisions, intellectual order, gaps and biases, and scope. Such an intervention is necessary given that archives can powerfully shape the research that comes out of them— particularly when their own contours and limitations remain unseen.

Christopher N. Warren, Avery Wiscomb, Pierce Williams, Samuel V. Lemley, and Max G'Sell, "Canst Thou Draw Out *Leviathan* with Computational Bibliography? New Angles on Printing Thomas Hobbes' 'Ornaments' Edition"

This article attributes one of the three "first" editions of *Leviathan* to the London printer John Richardson (fl. 1673–1703), revising Noel Malcolm's attribution to a different printer

in the recent Clarendon Edition of *Leviathan*. We lay out the mystery of *Leviathan*'s so-called "Ornaments" edition and use evidence from damaged type pieces to say why we attribute its printing to Richardson. We then give a short sketch of Richardson's life and career and present evidence that supports a new date for the edition, including newly discovered advertisements and evidence from deteriorating type. We conclude with some implications for book history and bibliography, on the one hand, and Hobbes scholarship on the other. We argue that what we call "computational bibliography"—the analysis of bibliographical evidence through computational methods such as machine learning and computer vision— offers new angles for seeing the materiality and craft of clandestine, anonymously-printed books like Hobbes' *Leviathan*.

Mark J. Hill and Mikko Tolonen, "A Computational Investigation into the Authorship of *Sister Peg*"

This article engages with the longstanding debate over the authorship of the Scottish Militia pamphlet *Sister Peg* (1761). While previous evidence is born out of rigorous historical research, a debate remains between whether Adam Ferguson or David Hume was the author. This article uses computational stylometry to statistically investigate this question, with the aim of complementing existing historical evidence rather than overturning it. In doing this it concludes that the work was not written solely by David Hume and, instead, Adam Ferguson is likely to be the sole author *or* there was a more complicated history of co-authorship.

Keywords: Eighteenth century history, digital humanities, stylometry, authorship attribution, David Hume, Adam Ferguson, *Sister Peg*, Scottish militia

Kandice Sharren, Kate Ozment, and Michelle Levy, "Gendering Digital Bibliography with the *Women's Print History Project*"

This article examines how digital methodologies expand the capabilities of book history scholarship through a case study of the *Women's Print History Project*. The WPHP is a database of thousands of bibliographical records about printed books linked to records about the persons and business firms that created them. Using what we call "radical descriptivism" tempered with "radical skepticism," we explore how traces of women's labor exist in plain sight and how books can obscure and reveal gendered norms. We conclude that incorporating gender studies and digital methodologies into the history of print moves us closer to the capacious potential of the sociology of the text.

Alicia C. Montoya, "Enlightenment? What Enlightenment? Reflections on Half a Million Books (British, French, and Dutch Private Libraries, 1665–1830)"

Presenting preliminary findings from the MEDIATE database, this essay explores how "big data," or extremely large bibliographic corpora, can transform Enlightenment historiography. What happens when our dataset is no longer hundreds, but half a million books, recorded in hundreds of catalogues of private libraries sold across Europe from 1665–1830? How do the handful of canonical Enlightenment titles relate to the mass of reading material in these libraries? Focusing on the presence of classical authors in these catalogues, this essay argues that as vehicles transmitting the ideas of (long-dead) authors, books and libraries fundamentally transformed Enlightenment engagements with the past.

Matthew Sangster, Karen Baston, and Brian Aitken, "Reconstructing Student Reading Habits in Eighteenth-Century Glasgow: Enlightenment Systems and Digital Reconfigurations"

This essay discusses eighteenth-century student borrowings from the University of Glasgow, using these as a case study to examine how digital transformations of manuscript sources might help us move beyond received narratives and technologies of Enlightenment. It argues that while many of the assumptions of digital systems are inherited from Enlightenment discourses, freeing data from the confines of physical space using simple digital approaches

has considerable potential for allowing us to construct a fuller, more detailed, and more democratic history of eighteenth-century readers and reading, surfacing idiosyncrasies, continuities, sociality, and forms of interconnection.

Jeanne M. Britton, "Graphic Constructions of Knowledge in Piranesi's Maps and Diderot's *Encyclopédie*"

The encyclopedic maps of Giovanni Battista Piranesi literalize the metaphor that "the map is the encyclopedia." This essay compares two of his heavily annotated maps to the French *Encyclopédie*: where Denis Diderot and Jean le Rond d'Alembert theorize the map and the cross-reference as methods of organization, Piranesi employs both. With their references to annotated images, Piranesi's encyclopedic maps ultimately expose the disorder and multiplicity hovering beneath the ordered objectivity of literal and figurative expressions of Enlightenment cartography. Additionally, this essay argues that his works are a productive site through which to consider aims and strategies of digital design.

Keywords: maps, cartography, Enlightenment, knowledge, information display,

Alessandra De Mulder, "London Calling from the Auction World: A Methodological Journey through Eighteenth-Century London Auction Advertisements"

Word embeddings have been proven to achieve interesting results for historical linguistic research and digitized sources such as books and newspapers. The central argument is that few eighteenth-century corpora give as many opportunities to apply, test, and refine digital methods as digitized newspapers. This article explores the possibilities of DH methodology for the empirical examination of auction advertisements in eighteenth-century London. Moreover, it shows that word embeddings, when combined with a more traditional approach to historical sources, might reveal broader societal changes, developments, and patterns that would otherwise escape the historian's gaze. It also allows the historian to get closer to the importance and use of historical words and their embedded meanings. To illustrate this, a word embedding analysis of the eighteenth-century auction advertisements is complemented with a close reading of the sources to find motivational drivers revealing eighteenth-century consumption patterns. Tracing the pivotal words and stock phrases used to sell products and contextualizing them within auctions advertisements and, by extension, newspapers, and other source material leads to fresh insights into the cultural history of values of eighteenth-century England.