

THE ARCHIVE IN THE DIGITAL AGE ABSTRACTS

Scholarly Networking for Humanities Researchers

John Norman, CARET, University of Cambridge

The talk will cover briefly the current collaboration support provided to researchers at Cambridge, current thinking on Scholarly Networking in the Mellon funded Bamboo project, an insight into the provision of an integrated collaboration, preservation, dissemination platform for a social science discipline, and a project to investigate the potential of online Scholarly Networking tools to support Early Career Researchers.

From the Gutenberg Bible to born digital: electronic & digitised collections at Cambridge University Library

Sue Mehrer, University Library, University of Cambridge

Electronic resources and digital collections are increasing significantly every year. Finding, accessing and navigating these collections, however, is often not as simple as one would expect in this digital age. Cambridge University Library offers not only outstanding print collections, but a great wealth of electronic and digitised resources (and ambitious plans to increase both), as well as the University's repository, DSpace, to support and underpin the research and publications of Cambridge's research community. This presentation aims to give an overview of the resources, expertise and tools available to the arts, humanities and social sciences scholars at Cambridge University Library.

Digging in the crates: the Cairo Genizah in the digital age

Ben Outhwaite, University Library, University of Cambridge

The Taylor-Schechter Genizah Collection at Cambridge University Library is the largest single collection of medieval Hebrew and Arabic manuscripts in the world. Uncovered in the storeroom (genizah) of an ancient synagogue in Fustat, Egypt, 100 years ago, it remained mostly undisturbed in various boxes and tea chests in the UL until the late 1960s, when various scholars dug into the crates and recognised its immense importance for all areas of Jewish and medieval Mediterranean studies. Since then, the Collection has been conserved and is undergoing cataloguing at a great pace, and it was one of the first major archives in Cambridge to embrace the potential of digitisation and the internet. At 193,000 manuscripts, the T-S Collection is by far the largest, but it is not unique, as tens of thousands of Genizah manuscripts ended up in many different libraries and museums around the world. Now, thanks to the trailblazing work of the Genizah Research Unit and a major collaboration with the Friedberg Genizah Project, the disparate fragments from collections around the globe are being made available online, to be reunited virtually after a century of separation.

The Digital Scriptorium

Raphael Lyne, Scriptorium, University of Cambridge

In this paper I shall explore the opportunities and problems arising from 'Scriptorium: Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts Online'. The digital archive has enormous potential, but its place in twenty-first century academia is a complex one, and its intellectual consequences are as yet under-explored.

Putting Darwin's letters online

Paul White (University Library, University of Cambridge) and Sam Kuper

The Darwin Correspondence Project has to move continuously between the worlds of traditional academic publishing and new digital resources, satisfying a wide-range of users from academic experts across the sciences and humanities, to university and school students, to the general public. We have produced an array of new electronic material in recent years, including searchable letter-texts, special interest sections (ecology, religion) with essays, commentaries, and interviews, and letter-sets on particular themes (race and empire, class relations, friendship).

Himalayan archives, online and off: the Digital Himalaya Project and the return of cultural property

Mark Turin, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge

For the past eight years, the Digital Himalaya Project team based in Cambridge, Cornell and Kathmandu have been sourcing, digitising and disseminating multimedia anthropological information from the Himalayan region in innovative ways. Both the ethnographic content itself and the distribution strategies are providing researchers and heritage communities new ways in to historical and contemporary archives, and unexpected forums for collaboration and cooperation are emerging. In today's presentation, I will illustrate some paths of interaction with our digital archive, and reflect on the changing understandings among Himalayan scholars of what makes an archive and how it should be accessed and maintained.

History and the archives of the future: How digitization changes everything

Leigh Denault, Digitization of History, Centre for History and Economics, King's College, Cambridge

The archives are changing, not just in terms of what is being collected, but also how we access, store, and maintain information. Methodologies adopted and adapted from social and cultural anthropology, geography, sociology and literary criticism have transformed history as a field, and allowed scholars to expand their understanding of historical sources and patterns. Yet the digital revolution, while it has been embraced by historians in terms of digital catalogues and online books, has not been subjected to the same level of engagement and methodological debate within history. We argue in this paper for the need for exchange, debate and collaboration among computer scientists, librarians and archivists, and historians to address both the potential and the serious challenges and inequalities of digitization. We will look at the kinds of methodologies which developed within history to analyze texts and collections, and then think about how these methodologies might help us to understand the transformation of information orders today. We will also think about how new access, or a lack of such access, to sources is creating a quiet revolution in the study of history.

Remote Sensing Inaccessible Areas and Lost Landscapes:

Looking for archaeological sites along old routes and in areas of intensive agricultural activity in Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India

Cameron Petrie, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge

Military conflicts and political instability mean that effective ground based archaeological research is virtually impossible in many areas of West, Central and South Asia. In those areas that are accessible, the degree of modern cultivation has meant that hundreds of archaeological sites have disappeared, and modern landscapes often bear little resemblance to those of even 100 year ago. With the widespread availability of free or inexpensive satellite imagery, it is now possible to 'visit' inaccessible regions by looking at them from space, and it

is also possible to make use of late 19th and early 20th century survey maps and mid-late 20th century satellite photographs to detect archaeological sites remotely. This information can then be used to make an assessment of site destruction, and reconstruct ancient routes and settlement patterns.

"We are a part of the records that we keep": Stabilizing Plurality in the Postmodern Archive

Robin Boast, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Cambridge

Gayatri Spivak's point, made over 20 years ago, that we are a part of the records that we keep, drives home a major point about the archive as collection. The modern archive, as collection, is a legacy of a colonial programme of control and characterization of the Other. The contemporary reconstruction of the archive has rebuilt the programme of collecting as a programme of preservation and performance of diversity and plurality, but this has been done through a programme of stabilisation and standardisation. As Steve Connor suggests, this stabilisation is a central problem of postmodernist theory: "how to speak of and bring plurality into being, in a way that does not itself limit and neutralize that plurality" (1991: 80). This paper explores this problem in relation to the Archive, and explores a few working solutions.

Digital musicology: aims, issues and consequences

Ian Cross, Centre for Music and Science, University of Cambridge, and Martin Rohmeier

This talk will present some examples of the use of computational techniques to address specific issues in the domain of musicology, showing how new digital media may transform musicological methodologies, questions, problems, and understandings of music. It will illustrate how a range of problems is now amenable to computational exploration, employing new methodologies and digital databases, with a number of examples from recent research.