Collaboration and CRUD

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Lire : une manière d’écriture?

- the virtual pencil
- collaboration online
- resistance to CRUD
- CRUD for scholarly purposes
the virtual pencil
Jonathan Richardson, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu in Turkish Dress with Page, c.1725
Main Reading Room, British Library, 1857-1997

Jeremy Bentham’s Panopticon, as drawn by Wiley Reveley, 1791
The Letters of Lady Mary Wortley Montague

London
Printed by S. A. Oddy, Pickett Street.
The Letters of Lady Mary Wortley

<choice>
<sic>Montague</sic>
<corr>Montagu</corr>
</choice>

London
Printed by S.A. ODDY, Pickett Street.
• create
• read
• update
• delete

Crud, *Devil at the Wheel* Album Cover Art (Full Effects Records)
“What happens when anyone can speak and publish? What happens when knowledge credentialing is no longer controlled solely by institutions of higher learning?”

Anne Burdick, Johanna Drucker, Peter Lunenfeld, Todd Presner, Jeffrey Schnapp, *Digital_Humanities*, 2012
Collaboration

The rule rather than the exception in digital humanities

network graph of participants in the DH2011 conference @ Stanford

Elijah Meeks
http://dh2011network.stanford.edu/
collaboration in the humanities

“collaboration [is] a condition for literary scholarship”
(Kenneth Price, in The American Literature Scholar in the Digital Age, 2011)

BUT

professional credit still largely based on single authorship

single-authored publications are still the rule

Collaborative authorship 2004-2008:
• American Literary History: 1.93%
• Literary & Linguistic Computing: 48.28%

Lisa Spiro, Collaborative Authorship in the Humanities, 2009
Multi-author articles: <10%

Figure 1. Proportion of multi-author articles in NSE, social sciences and humanities, Canada and the world, 1980–2002

Proportion of scholars publishing collaboratively 1980-2002

(Vincent Larivière; Yves Gingras; Éric Archambault, "Canadian collaboration networks: A comparative analysis of the natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities," Scientometrics 68.3 (2006))
We need collaborative infrastructure

"Many of the issues hobbling the humanities involve isolation."

Types of isolation:

- **PEOPLE**
  - Faculty; Librarians and IT professionals; Students

- **METHODS and EXPERTISE**
  - Resources, projects, standards, training, stories of failure

- **PROJECTS**
  - Collaborative opportunities, silos, sustainability

C - devoted to writing in and about Canada

W - wide variety of writing
  o primary and secondary materials, contextual information, bibliography, images, audio, video

R - online research infrastructure
  o for sharing materials for research in progress, and supporting research creation as well as publication

C - supporting collaboration in the creation, sharing, and ongoing enhancement of resources

(CWRC = "quirk")
CWRC infrastructure = A dynamic, scholarly ecosystem

Fedora repository

• **Access** (metadata, search, faceting, dissemination)

• **Preservation** (essential component – partnering with University of Alberta Libraries/ERA: Education and Research Archive)

Service layer

• **Create** (ongoing scholarly contributions)

• **Read** (dissemination, analysis and visualization)

• **Update** (augmentation of own and other’s content—editing, correcting, updating and enhancing documents and metadata)

• **Delete**
Dynamic content –
A scholar’s work in progress
Dynamic content – opening up silos

Index to Pre 1900 English Language Canadian Cultural and Literary Magazines

- Available online only on public computers in Mills, Innis and Thode libraries, via a CD ROM network; 1 concurrent user.
- To access, click Start > Programs
- An index to 190 early Canadian magazines. Contents deal mainly with cultural, intellectual, and literary concerns. Each entry identifies a particular article, poem, story, illustration or editorial. Magazines covered include The Nova Scotia Magazine, The Literary Garland and New Dominion Monthly to name just a few. Many shorter-run magazines are also covered, as well as most university monthly publications. Mills Library holds many of these titles.

Early digital resource (137,000 bibliographical items) in obsolete media; unavailable now in most Canadian research libraries
Canadian Writing Research Collaboratory

**User Interaction Layer** implemented by a Rich Internet Application (RIA). Strong emphasis on usability.

**RESTful Web Services Layer** for text editing, text analysis, collaboration (tagging, messaging, co-authoring, commentary), social networking (user-profile and community management, expert identification and introductions, influence paths analysis), data mining (conceptual and spatio-temporal clustering), and analytics (e.g., text analysis tools, visualization, GIS applications, log mining and workflow extraction).

**ORCA Repository**
- Born-digital scholarly data
- Primary texts in a range of media
- Metadata (DB indices, XML annotations and cross-references)

- Chat, messaging, folksonomic tags and annotations
- Bibliographies
- Editing Modernisms in Canada
- Women Writers
- Women Writers since 1950
- Playwrights Guild
- Atlantic Canada Theatre Site
- Orlando
- Femmes de la Vie Litteraire au Quebec
- Book Trade Index
- Authority lists, personographic/prosopographic data
- User-created metadata for federated and linked materials

**Federated**
- Early Canadiana online
- Synergies
- Peel's Prairie Provinces

**Backup**
On-line XML/RDF editor
Workflow management interface prototype
(developed in collaboration with the INKE Implementing New Knowledge Environments project)
Magic Circle tool created by Ofer Arazy, Carlos Fiorentino, Piotr Michura, Milena Radzikowska, Eleni Stroulia – visualizing contributions to CWRC wiki main page
The strongest drive is not sex or greed. It is one person's need to change another's copy.
“Ted was severely edited as a child.”
A community-based poetics of technological innovation?

Too often, information technology design is poor because problems have been redefined in ways that ignore the social resources that are an integral part of this socialization process. By contrast, successful design usually draws on these social resources, even while helping them change.


New ways for working and new technologies grow out of old ones. They do so neither through a process of simple incremental change, nor through wholesale displacement and transformation, but out of an ongoing interaction between understandings based in prior experience on the one hand, and leaps of faith inspired by imagination on the other.

Lucy Suchman, "Working Relations of Technology Production and Use", 1994
Key cultural factors

- Trust
- Credit
- Managing distributed contributions
- Role & responsibility policies
Thank you

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