



LIBRARIES

NEWSLETTER

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Thoughts on digital scholarship in the humanities

An interview with Professor Linda Hutcheon

PROFESSOR HUTCHEON WAS APPOINTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH IN 1988, HAVING PREVIOUSLY BEEN AN ASSOCIATE OF THE UNIVERSITY'S CENTRE FOR COMPARATIVE LITERATURE SINCE 1980. IN 1996 SHE WAS NAMED A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, IN RECOGNITION OF HER SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENT AND PRE-EMINENCE IN HER FIELD. AS A LITERARY THEORIST, HER STUDIES OF POSTMODERNISM HAVE SHAPED THE WAY MANY LITERARY SCHOLARS AND CRITICS SEE THE EVOLUTION OF WESTERN LITERATURE. SHE IS A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION AND A PROLIFIC WRITER WITH MORE THAN A DOZEN BOOKS TO HER CREDIT.

Create Change conducted this interview with Professor Linda Hutcheon of the Department of English at the University of Toronto on the possibilities opened to scholars by online publishing and sharing of information. An online educational initiative, *Create Change* examines new opportunities in scholarly communication, advocates changes that recognize the potential of the networked digital environment, and encourages active participation by scholars and researchers to guide the course of change (www.createchange.org).

The cultures of the humanities and the sciences are very different, aren't they? Why is this? How are these differences reflected in scholarly communication traditions and practices?

There definitely are cultural differences because the two offer different forms of knowledge. In the humanities, a big part of our mission is to preserve, transmit and interpret the inherited cultural archive. Our job is not to make new discoveries about how nature works. That has an effect on scholarly communication. Our work is not as time sensitive, but on the other hand, it has a greater shelf life, because it becomes part of the archive. That's why the book is still the

important medium. Yet digital scholarship opens up the possibility of self-archiving, a phenomenon that we associate with the sciences. A lot of books go out of print and now you can keep things in print in some form – provided authors have retained the rights to do so. Humanists and social scientists stand to learn a lot by looking outside their fields and thinking beyond their normal print modes of communicating their scholarship.

In your field, what are the biggest areas of debate about sharing information digitally?

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There hasn't been a lot of debate in my field and that is one of the worries. I think it's mainly because of a lack of knowledge. Scholars are using the Internet to access scholarly materials but they are not using it in many other ways. People know about databases and journals online. They don't know much about self-archiving. As opposed to publishing, this is a form of open access that allows us to preserve digitally all of our work. Rather than using a personal web site, putting our work in an institutional repository has the advantage of getting us priority on Google and other search engines. It makes our material more accessible and therefore it potentially has more impact. Also, for social reasons, open access is important. When your research is taxpayer-funded it should be easily available to others. With self-archiving, people worry about things like the ease of submission, control once it is posted, and the permanence of it. Many wonder: Why should I bother? But they are missing out, I feel.

Tell us about the "monograph crisis." How did it come about?

It's more of a chronic illness than a crisis. For years now, library budgets for books — or "monographs" — have declined as libraries have been forced to shift funds to support the fast-rising cost of journals. As a result, university presses are selling — and therefore publishing — fewer books. In the humanities, we are

producing larger amounts of material but our delivery system is not able to sustain it.

What are the implications for promotion and tenure?

University presses are forced into becoming trade publishers and not publishing in-depth studies that we still require to grant tenure. The near-term economics has been winning over long-term scholarship. It's very hard to get a first book published. Yet the book is still the gold standard for tenure.

What are some of the solutions that have been proposed?

We need to start to rethink tenure. Recently, a statement on the subject came out from the Modern Language Association of America, the largest professional humanities association in the US. It advocates a wholesale rethinking of tenure criteria, in the light of many changes in the academic workplace, including the monograph "crisis." Many suggestions have been made in many quarters, however, and they range from having candidates for tenure submit their best, say, five pieces of work — thereby moving the stress to quality, not quantity — to rethinking the production of university presses in electronic terms.

How should university presses change?

I think they have a really important role and they need more financial support from their universities. They shouldn't be competing with the public and trade publishers. They have their

own market and should be free to do real scholarly work. They could, however, look into other ways to "publish" — maybe going electronic, as did Rice University Press. In my field, people are willing to search online, but they need to move more into publishing online.

It's been suggested that the Internet revolution has been slow to arrive in humanities scholarship. Is that true?

I think we are catching on: online journals and other resources, especially databases, have become normal — and important. What's taking longer to catch on is recognizing the legitimacy of new forms of scholarship as well as new forms of publishing. A group recently formed to study 19th century culture — NINES (Network Interface for Nineteenth-Century Electronic Scholarship) — has established an integrated

publishing environment for peer reviewed online work. They are advocates as well as professional facilitators, because they are showing us the rich potential of electronic media and therefore new ways of conceiving of scholarship. I think we will see more of that in the future.

What is the biggest barrier to change?

Time. People need time to learn new ways of doing scholarship. People are so busy with the day to day that they don't have time to think about this issue. As new opportunities with open access become more available,

more groups will get excited. And the younger generations will teach the older ones.

How are technology and the Internet changing the ways the humanities are taught and how students learn?

The geography of education has changed. Instead of going to the library, students can access material from anywhere. But we have to teach them how to interpret the value of what they find online. Some think it all has the same value. It obviously does not, and so we also have to deal with the issue of plagiarism, which has increased immensely.

How have communication technologies changed the way you work?

I travel less. I don't have to visit archives physically, so to speak, so research is easier. And so much more is also easily available. To give you an example, I've been involved in a large project

that never could have happened a few years ago: I was one of 300 people involved in rewriting the literary history of Latin America. We were in all different locations around the world. We couldn't have done this project without both online archives and electronic communication. New things have become possible with databases and dictionaries; important works such as the Dictionary of Old English now are digitalized and the entire Old English corpus of texts is now available.

“...putting our work in an institutional repository has the advantage of getting us priority on Google and other search engines...”

“What's taking longer to catch on is recognizing the legitimacy of new forms of scholarship as well as new forms of publishing.”

U of T Regional Leader *in* Social Science *and* Humanities Publishing Program

Synergies: The Canadian Information Network for Research in the Social Sciences and Humanities will create a national network for the production, storage, and access to digitized knowledge produced in Canada, including peer reviewed journal articles, datasets, theses, conference proceedings, scholarly books, and other 'grey literature.' Researchers from across the country and around the world will be able to access Canadian scholarly material, using a common searching tool. The project, involving 21 universities, led by the University of Montreal, will greatly enhance the potential and impact of social sciences and humanities scholarship in Canada, as well as enhance the visibility of that research at home and abroad. The University of Toronto is leading the Ontario region which consists of York University and the Universities of Guelph and Windsor.

Synergies is made possible by a Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) grant of over \$11.5 million. "CFI recognizes the critical contribution of researchers in the social sciences and humanities", said Dr. Phillipson, President and CEO of CFI. "Providing them with world-class, user-friendly knowledge management tools will catalyze discovery at the frontiers of many fields of research."



By providing free access to most documents, Synergies is a practical way of publicly promoting the results of humanities and social sciences research. In addition to its multilingual interface, Synergies will provide an innovative platform that enables users to enter English and French keywords to access documents in both languages. "Synergies has the potential to engage the community in fundamental debates about the nature of

scholarly communication and public access in the 21st century university," said Gale Moore, Director of the Knowledge Media Design Institute and Academic leader on Project Open Source |Open Access

According to Professor Michael Eberle Sinatra, Principal Investigator of Synergies and Professor in the Université de Montréal's Department of English, this platform will raise the visibility of Canadian

researchers internationally. "These days, research findings are invariably published on the Internet. The decentralized and versatile infrastructures that we're setting up are sure to help mobilize the humanities and social sciences research community."

"U of T Libraries are extremely excited about what the Synergies project will mean for the development of Canadian scholarly publications," said Carole Moore, chief librarian and U of T's principal investigator on the Synergies project. "Synergies will make Canadian research dramatically more accessible worldwide."

Professor Ian Lancashire of English agrees. "Synergies will fundamentally democratize and globalize Canada's research by moving our publications online in a great national uplift that will benefit Canadians and the world," said Lancashire, who is renowned for his Representative Poetry Online, the world's most extensive electronic anthology of English poetry. "The University of Toronto's partnership in Synergies builds on the superb research infrastructure already put in place, Ontario-wide, by the U of T Libraries' information technology team."

Look us up on the web!

ROBARTS LIBRARY'S NEW WEB PAGE

<http://content.library.utoronto.ca/roberts/>

The Robarts Library has a new web page, providing students and researchers with direct access to library services offered in the humanities and social sciences. "Contributions were made by the various departments within Robarts," said Jenny Mendelsohn, Head of Reference and Research Services, "to enhance

access to Robarts Library for researchers and users." The purpose of the new web page is to make Robarts information easily accessible and to highlight the research and educational services that are the hallmark of Robarts Library.

All the familiar jumping off points to the Library's rich collections — such as the library catalogue, the quick search box for articles, or the list of popular databases— are available on the Robarts Library home page. In addition to these links, students and researchers will find guides and services tailored to the humanities and social sciences.

Volunteers Managing

Robarts Book Room

The Library Book Room, opened last fall on the 2nd floor of the Robarts Library, has become a place where students, staff and volunteers meet in search of books which range from art to serious literature and bestsellers. The operation is run by incredibly dedicated volunteers led by Wiebke Smythe, who has long-standing experience in running book sales. The stock comes from donations made by staff and friends of the library, and all

proceeds go to the library acquisitions fund.

Very proud of what has been accomplished so far, Wiebke shares some thoughts on the experience. “Josy Visscher and I decided we would sort books by categories and then in alphabetical order by title and see how it would fly. And it did. However, initially we had no idea how much we had of what, how current it was, and how much we should charge. The arrangement by title works very well — a student came running in at almost



▲ JOSY VISSCHER, WIEBKE SMYTHE AND VICTORIA MUELLER

closing time looking for a copy of *The Great Gatsby*; there was a copy sitting waiting for him in the literature section. By request, the volunteers set up a separate poetry category, which is very popular. “So far, our customers have been very enthusiastic and supportive of the book room, and they are especially pleased to hear that we are all volunteers, working for the love of books.”

Now that volunteers are six months into the venture, the

team has grown to include retired library staff Victoria Mueller and Michael Rosenstock, and Julia Antonoff and Tessa Bishop. Joan London was also recruited to be on call whenever needed. They all share the same work ethic,

i.e. be punctual, and be there when promised.

Wiebke concluded, “It has been a positive experience for us and the many book lovers. In the course of our day, we get free lectures, meet interesting people and are told often that the environment we created is fun and user friendly.

Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

August: Closed

Farley Mernick

An Eclectic Collector

A native of Toronto, Farley Mernick describes himself as a real estate consultant and Judaica collector. His collecting interests are many, but it all started when he was a kid, growing up in a Jewish neighbourhood in North York, when he began collecting Judaica cards and ephemera, amassing the largest collection in the world. This turned into a passion for salvaging old Jewish books that were in danger of being discarded or buried due to overuse, neglect, or poor condition. This quest took him all over the world, particularly Eastern Europe and parts of

the United States. He made a particularly heroic effort in Pittsburgh, where he salvaged thousands of books abandoned by the Pittsburgh Jewish community and brought them to Toronto in order to preserve them and ensure that they would find a proper home.

Three years ago, Mernick began donating parts of his collection to the University of Toronto. His collections of sports cards and sports and entertainment memorabilia as well as the Judaica cards and ephemera will end up in the Media Commons. Many of the books that he

salvaged from Pittsburgh and other Jewish communities will be housed in the general collections in Robarts, and a few rare and special items will be housed in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library. Of particular interest are a number of handwritten legal documents from seventeenth-century Germany, two volumes of a special edition of the Talmud, printed by the U.S. Government in the displaced persons camps in Germany after World War II (ill.), and a coin issued by the Roman government in 70 C.E. commemorating the fall of Judea and the destruction of the Jerusalem Temple.

“Mernick’s eclectic collections are important for their documenting of the roles of Jews in culture, sports and entertainment and for the wealth of information about these people that they



▲ TITLE PAGE OF THE TALMUD, PRINTED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN THE DISPLACED PERSONS CAMPS IN GERMANY AFTER WORLD WAR II

provide”, says Barry Walfish, Library Judaica Specialist.

The illustrations are a small sampling of the variety and richness of this unusual collection, which will certainly be appreciated by scholars and the Toronto community in general.

Through the continuing generous support of Marvin Gerstein of the Frank Gerstein Charitable Foundation, and Dr. Reva Gerstein and Irving and Ira Gerstein of the Bertrand Gerstein Charitable Foundation, one of the University's architectural treasures will be renewed and refurbished over the coming months. The heritage reading room of the original 1892 library building, now the Gerstein Science Information Centre, will re-open in Fall 2007 as *The Gerstein Reading Room*.

The renovation will capture the beauty and grandeur of the original space and introduce enhancements to meet the needs of today's students and researchers. Comfortable seating will be provided in clustered groupings. New study tables will be in keeping with those that

Gerstein Library Gift Heritage Space for the 21st Century



were originally part of the room. The tables will provide task lighting and wired and wireless

connectivity. Bookcases matching the heritage millwork will circle the perimeter of the room. New

wall mounted lighting will be added to showcase the ambience of the room and special attention will be focused on the original design of the spectacular skylit ceiling.

Chief Librarian, Carole Moore, said that the Library is extremely grateful to the Gerstein families for their commitment, vision and ongoing support. Their original gift to the Library, in 1989, introduced significant improvements to the Library in the early 1990's and has been the catalyst for ongoing development and student-focused renovation over the last ten years. The renovation, soon to get underway, will see the culmination of many years of planning and will provide a showcase focused on student needs and offer an appropriate reminder to the entire academic community of the University's rich heritage.

Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library Wenceslaus Hollar Digital Collection

The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library has recently announced the launch of a new digital collection featuring over 2500 of the prints of Wenceslaus Hollar (1607-1677), a great master of the art of etching.



Although the lion's share of Hollar's work was produced in and about his adopted England, his artistic interest was broad ranging and the site also includes religious and historical prints, maps, portraits, costumes, and

natural history. As well as the individual etchings, the Fisher Library boasts some one hundred published works containing original prints made from Hollar's plates. In an effort to provide the original context for at least some of Hollar's book illustration, the full text of several of these works has also been included.

This exciting and interesting project has been possible thanks to an award from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation of New York.

The collection is available at <http://link.library.utoronto.ca/hollar>.

What is the value — to the humanities and to society — of more open scholarly communication?

Open access removes barriers. I find this very politically attractive. The sharing of knowledge it allows helps us get at economic inequities experienced both by smaller academic institutions and, of course, by developing countries. Everybody wins. More access and resource sharing lead to a democratized diffusion of knowledge.

What traditions in the humanities would you like to see change to improve scholarly communication?

The scholarly function performed by the monograph is crucial in the humanities. But we have to rethink how it is “published.” As the NINES group and others recognize, we need new models. Why should

Why should we be limited to the book form? Why stick to print?

we be limited to the book form? Why stick to print? There are multimedia and other options now. Let’s move on.

Create Change (www.createchange.org) was developed by the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) and SPARC (Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition) and is supported by the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL). This website represents the second edition of Create Change. The first edition has been archived and is temporarily available online.

Friends of Fisher Events

The Seventh Annual Alexander C. Pathy Lecture

THY SHADOWS WILL OUTLAST THE STONE: WENCESLAUS HOLLAR & THE ART OF THE BOOK

This year’s Pathy Lecture was delivered in late November 2006 by Dr. Anne Thackray on Hollar’s career as an artist and printmaker. Wenceslaus Hollar’s illustrations for the coronation of King Charles II are among the most renowned examples of his artistry, although he will remain most famous for



ALEXANDER PATHY WITH DR. ANNE THACKRAY

his scenes of London before and after the Great Fire of 1666. By his life’s end he had produced about 2,700 separate etchings. Anne Thackray is currently on leave from the National Gallery of Canada where she has done extensive research on seveneenth-century British prints and drawings. During her leave, Dr. Thackray is working on an exhibition of the Fisher Library’s Hollar collection at the University of Toronto’s Art Centre.

HOPEFUL TRAVELLERS: ITALIAN EXPLORERS, MISSIONARIES, MERCHANTS AND ADVENTURERS FROM THE MIDDLE AGES TO MODERN TIMES

Running from January to April 2007, this exhibition featured books and maps, which are the printed evidence of the achievements of Italian travellers. Their journeys, to anywhere in the world, were made at any time from the 13th to the 14th centuries. Some of the books and maps in the exhibition were published or reprinted as recently as this century; others were printed in the 15th and 16th centuries.



Italians travelled far and with great success for themselves and their cities, like the Polos, or for their church, like Odoric of Pordenone, or for other countries, such as Columbus for Spain, Cadamosto for Portugal, Cabot for England, or Verrazzano for France. These travellers without a country crossed the oceans, the deserts, and the mountains, and the world was changed.

Dr. Robin Healey curated the exhibition and wrote the impressive and beautifully illustrated exhibition catalogue, designed and printed by Coach House Press.

THROUGH THE PAGES OF THE PAST: THE JEWISH BOOK IN ITS HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In January 2007, David Stern, Ruth Meltzer Professor of Classical Hebrew Literature at the University of Pennsylvania, delivered this special lecture on the history of the Jewish book as a material artifact, and showed how that artifact can serve as a window into the cultural interaction between Jews and the various larger



gentile cultures in which they have lived. Professor Stern has written widely on midrash (the Biblical commentaries of Rabbis), and is author of several books, including *Parables in Midrash: A Narrative and Exegesis in Rabbinic Literature*, published by Harvard University Press, and *Rabbinic Fantasies: Imaginative Narratives from Classical Hebrew Literature*, published by Yale University Press.

Friends of Fisher Events

The Sixth Annual David Nicholls Memorial Lecture
THE PROBLEMS OF OTTO EGE

Professor A. S. G. Edwards delivered the Nicholls lecture in February 2007. Otto Ege (1888-1951) was for nearly forty years a collector of medieval manuscripts. His collecting was in part linked to his avowed commitment to widen the audience for the beauties of medieval art. To this end, he sold individual leaves and cut up complete manuscripts and printed books to create



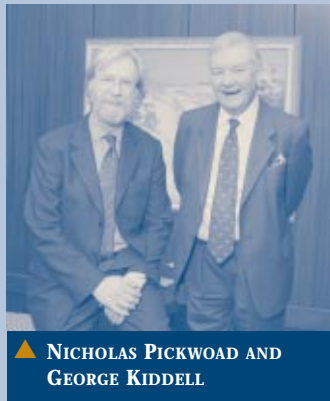
▲ HILARY NICHOLLS

portfolios of fragments. More than fifty years after his death, the problems that Ege created for posterity are great, and many questions remain. Professor Edwards addressed many questions relating to Ege, such as: Where did he obtain his manuscripts? Where have his portfolios gone? What happened to the remnants of the individual manuscripts he mutilated?

Professor Edwards is currently Professor of Textual Studies at De Montfort University in Leicester.

The Thirteenth Annual Gryphon Lecture
PRESERVING THE OLDEST LIBRARY IN CHRISTENDOM: THE ST. CATHERINE'S MONASTERY PROJECT ON MOUNT SINAI

As head of the conservation project in the library of the monastery of St Catherine on Mount Sinai, Egypt, Professor Pickwood spoke about The Library Conservation Project, based at the Camberwell College of Arts in London, which is now entering its tenth year. The monastery library is probably the oldest library in Christendom with over 3300 bound



▲ NICHOLAS PICKWOOD AND GEORGE KIDDELL

manuscripts, 1700 scrolls and over 6000 printed books, and its preservation involves much more than the repair of damaged books. The largest and most comprehensive survey of a manuscript collection ever attempted has been completed. The data collected will be accessed through a newly-designed database. A new type of storage box has been designed for 2000 of the more vulnerable manuscripts to cope with the harsh conditions of the desert. Work is also underway on the renovation of the library and the creation of a new conservation workshop.

THE ICONIC COPY: THE ART OF CREATING RARE BOOK REPRODUCTIONS

Chet Grycz delivered a special lecture in March 2007 on the art and craft of creating facsimiles of historic and fine books, accompanying an exhibit of such facsimiles. On display were reproductions of *The Book*



of Kells, The Lindisfarne Gospels, and the Gutenberg Bible.

Mr. Grycz has worked for university publishers such as Stanford and The University of California in the area of scholarly publishing and scholarly communication for almost 30 years. He is currently a consultant on electronic information and network technology.

Exhibitions

SEAS OF INK: BOOKS BY CANADIANS RECOMMENDED BY UFOF LIBRARY STAFF
April - August 2007
 1st floor, Roberts Library

A FORTUNATE GENT:
 THE LIFE OF CLYDE GILMOUR
April - August 2007
 North Lobby, 2nd floor, Roberts Library

AN EXHIBITION OF SELECTED LIBRARY RESOURCES ON EAST ASIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE AND HISTORY IN CANADA
May - August 2007
 8th floor, Roberts Library;
 Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library

THE AGE OF GUESSING IS PASSED:
 AN EXHIBITION TO MARK THE DAVID THOMPSON BICENTENNIAL
22 May - 31 August 2007
 Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

HART HOUSE:
 YOUR STUDENT CENTRE
September - October 2007
 1st Floor, Roberts Library

AMERICAN TYPOGRAPHER AND BOOK DESIGNER BRUCE ROGERS, COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH
24 September - 21 December 2007
 Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library

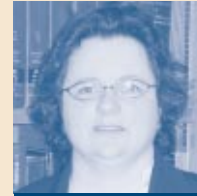


Correction

In the Fall 2006 issue, page 7, we regrettably omitted the Graham Library at Trinity College as one of the contributing institutions in the exhibition *Extra Muros/Intra Muros: A Collaborative Exhibition of Rare Books and Special Collections at the University of Toronto*.

Libraries Welcome New Information Professionals

Teresa Helik has just joined Regis College as Reference and Cataloguing Librarian. Teresa has a B.A. and B.Ed. from St. Francis Xavier University, an MLS from the University of Toronto and an M.Div. from Regis College. Her previous experience includes the Dentistry Library at U of T,

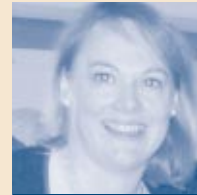


▲ TERESA HELIK

Acting Director of Library Services for the C.C. Clemmer Health Sciences Library at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College,

and Information Scientist in the corporate library of Ortho-McNeil Inc./Janssen Ortho. Inc.

Heather Wilson is the new Research Specialist in the Business Information Centre at the Rotman School of Management. She graduated with her MLS from the University of Toronto, and has worked at Resource Integration Systems as



▲ SUSAN SENESE

Resource Centre Manager for 10 years, and for IntelliSearch at the Toronto Reference Library as a Research Specialist since 1997. She joined the Rotman School of

Management in the fall of 2006.

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