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Enacting Open Social Scholarship: A Frame for the Canadian Social Knowledge Institute

U Cologne
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Reflecting the work of the C-SKI, ETCL, INKE, and DHSI Groups

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Context, Concept, and Action: Open Social Scholarship

- ❧ **Open social scholarship involves creating and disseminating research and research technologies to a broad audience of specialists and active non-specialists in ways that are accessible and significant. As a concept, it has grown from roots in open access and open scholarship movements, the digital humanities' methodological commons and community of practice, contemporary online practices, and public facing citizen scholarship.**



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Overview



- ❧ **Context**
- ❧ **Concept**
- ❧ **Action**



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Overview



❧ Context

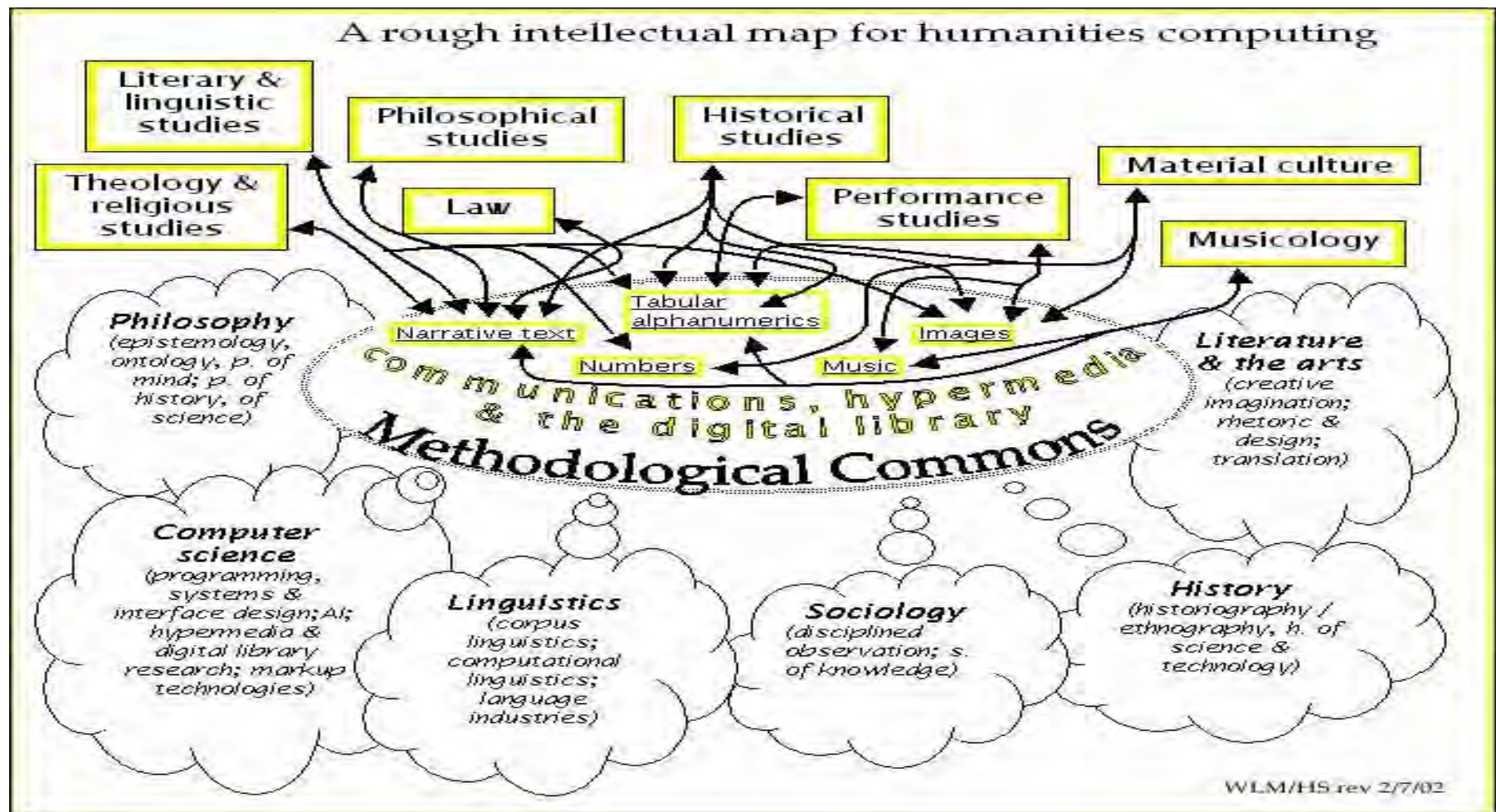
- Digital Humanities, Methodological Commons
- Communities of Practice
- Impact in Scholarly Production and Scholarship's Engagement?

❧ Concept

❧ Action



Context: Methodological Commons (MC)





Context: Methodological Commons (MC)

↗ Continued positive movement toward a problem-based focus, in areas of

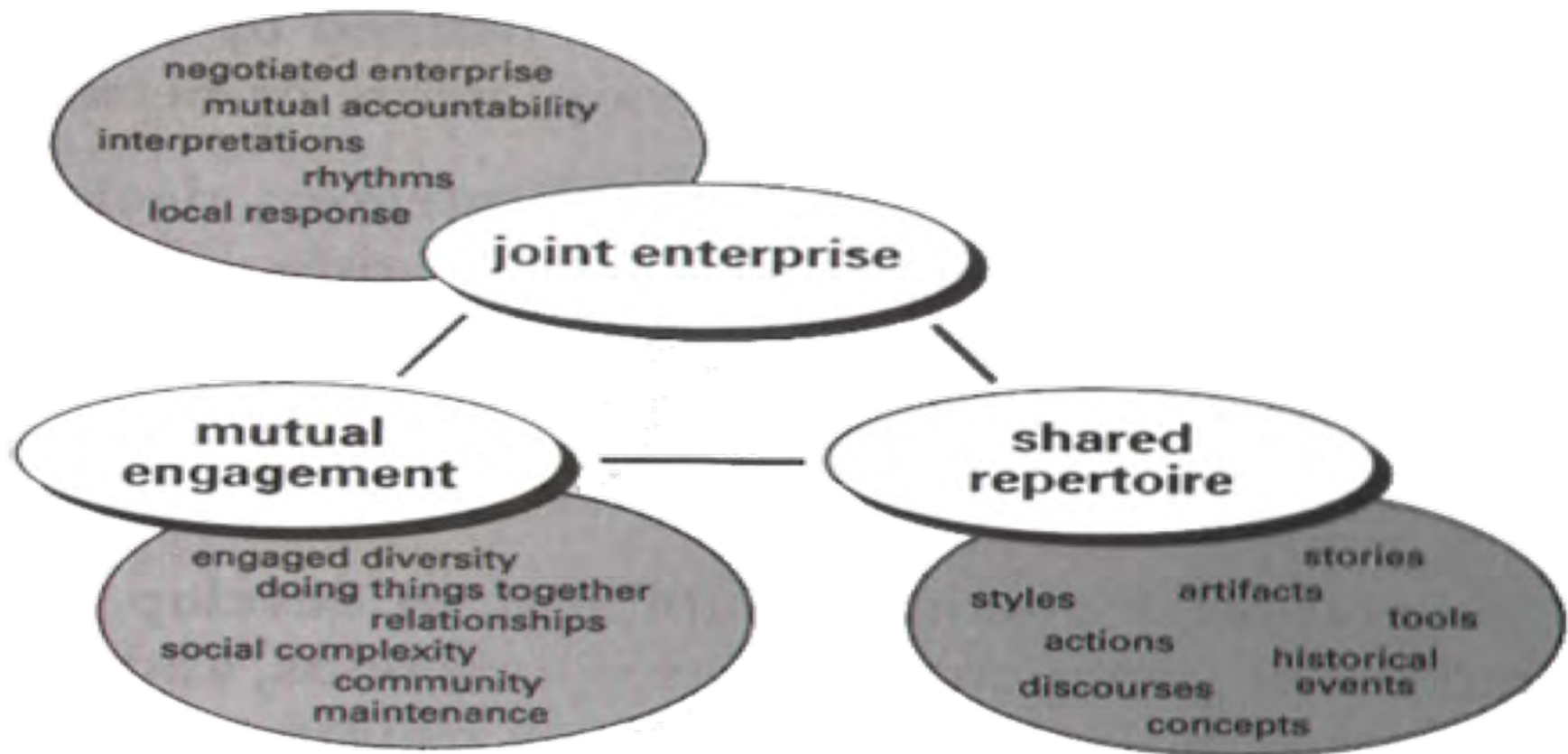
- content modeling of data (representation)
- process modeling with tools (analysis)
- Interaction/communication/dissemination

↗ Trends

- Increased
 - access to large data – in widely usable formats
 - familiarity with analytical processing – tools that work across disciplines, and disciplinary data sets
 - communication among those working in the community / communities that exist around that data – broadening
- Leading to
 - basic workflow acceleration
 - advanced workflow acceleration
 - larger reach for our work and its engagement



Context: Community of Practice (CoP)



Wenger, E. (2008) *Communities of Practice: Learning, Meaning, and Identity*, New York. USA, Cambridge University Press, p. 73.

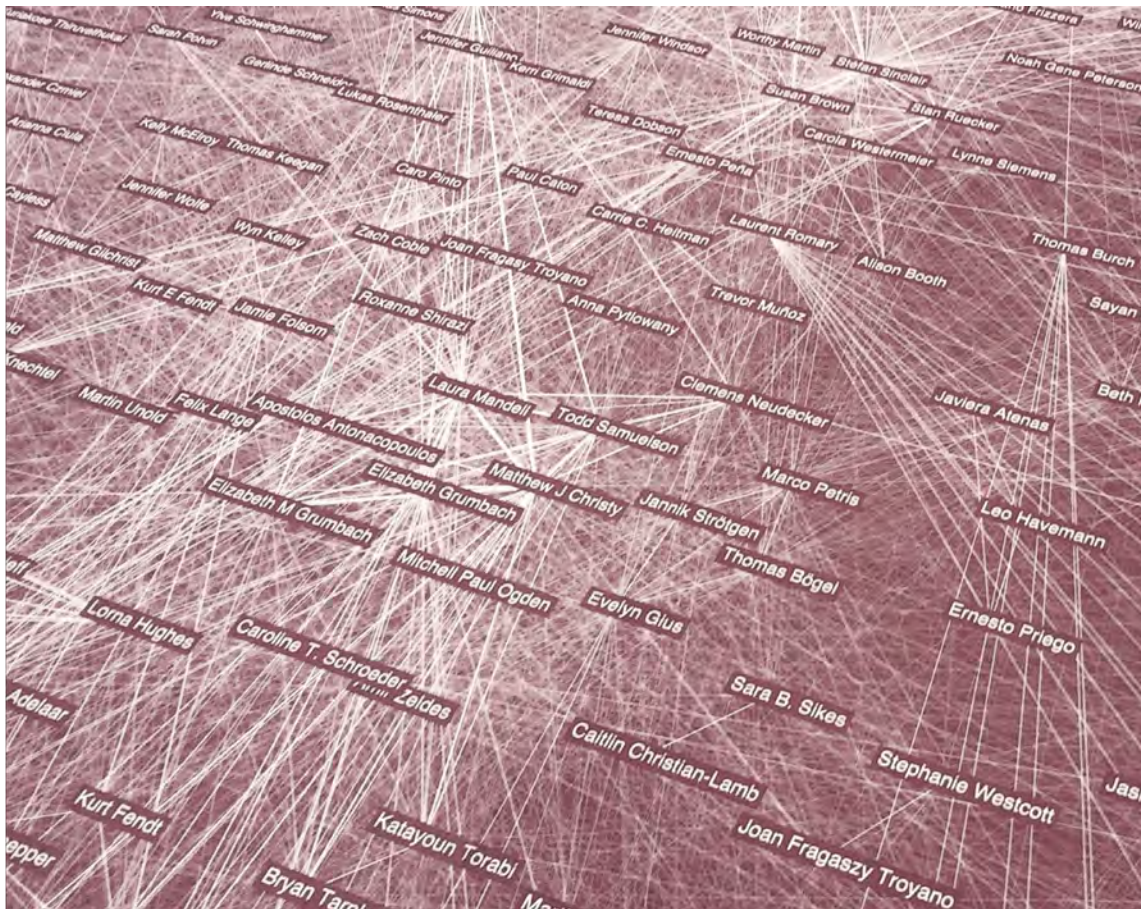


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MC+CoP → Collaborative Networks





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MC+CoP → Collaborative / Shared Infrastructures (centerNet)





MC+CoP → Point of Impact, Scholarly Production & Engagement

¶ In describing academic production in literary studies' Wissenschaft period of early last century, Northrop Frye noted:

- Just as societies have to go through a food-gathering stage before they enter a food-cultivating one, so there had to be a stage of gathering information about literature that might be relevant to it, even when there was still no clear idea of what literature was or how to arrive at any structural principle that would direct research from the heart of literature itself. This period of literary scholarship, which was dominant until about 1935, is sometimes called the Wissenschaft period, and its great scholars amassed an awesome amount of information. Its imaginative model was the assembly line, to which each scholar "contributed" something, except that the aim was not to produce a finite object like a motor car, but an indefinitely expanding body of knowledge.

Northrop Frye [1991]. "Literary and Mechanical Models," *Research in Humanities Computing* [ed. I. Lancashire]. Oxford: Oxford UP: 3-13. P. 4

¶ That body of knowledge needs a place to reside, be accessed, interrogated, and engaged.



MC+CoP → Point of Impact, Scholarly Production & Engagement

❧ Building on this, William Winder has noted that

- Amassing knowledge is relatively simple, as our towering research libraries demonstrate; organizing, retrieving, and understanding the interrelations of the information is another matter, and one whose mastery is not automatic, as our shaky understanding sometimes reveals

❧ He encourages us to imagine our *neo-Wissenschaft* period one which

- brings with it ... issues of *retrieval* and *reuse*

❧ our challenge today

- to be just as efficient at *retrieving* the information we produce as we are at *stockpiling* it.

“Texpert Systems” [1997]. *Computing in the Humanities Working Papers*. B.35.

❧ ... and how we engage it (perhaps also understanding who, exactly, “we” are)



MC+CoP → Converging Trends, Enjoyed in Future?

¶ Converging long-term tendencies that build on these trends are toward

- a greater increase of data yet
- new tools creation / adoption (analytical facility + computational power), and
- communication strategies that will likely lead, further, to some type of (increasingly technologically sophisticated) public participation in academic data creation + analysis and academic discourse via electronic means. This has the potential to change what we do quite radically



MC+CoP → Converging Trends, Enjoyed in Future?

¶ **We might want to be prepared for this, or similar eventualities.**

- The questions that our scholarship might ask and answer could undergo considerable change, reflecting this convergence
- Some very real and important differences in what we do could lie here
- Notable points of impact can be anticipated in areas of
 - Scholarly production
 - Scale
 - Access
 - Engagement
 - ... and beyond
- And the discussion around these points involves many concerns beyond what may be defined as 'academic work' narrowly considered



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Overview



- ❧ Context
- ❧ Concept
- ❧ Action



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Overview



❧ Context

❧ Concept: Open Social Scholarship

- Conceptual Evolution
 - Scoping Activities + Environmental Scans
 - Results
 - Targeted Meetings
- Exploratory Engagement
 - Theoretical Intervention
 - Experimental / Experiential Research
- Functional Definition

❧ Action



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Concept: Conceptual Evolution



🦋 Scoping Activities + Environmental Scans

- Three substantial environmental scans focus on how collaborative knowledge creation and engagement practices have been carried out, historically and currently. (incl. Alyssa Arbuckle, Randa El Khatib, and Lindsey Seatter, & others)
 - Social Knowledge Creation: Three Annotated Bibliographies (2014)
 - An Annotated Bibliography on Social Knowledge Creation (2017)
 - Open Social Scholarship Annotated Bibliography (in development)
- Book volumes
 - *Social Knowledge Creation in the Humanities* v1 (2017: Alyssa Arbuckle, Aaron Mauro, Daniel Powell)
 - *Social Knowledge Creation in the Humanities* v2 (2018: Aaron Mauro)



Concept: Historical Forms of Open Knowledge

- ❧ Key idea: Open knowledge is a historically based value system with a long tradition
- ❧ Central topics, themes, and points of exploration:
 - Circulation of knowledge in open ways, historically
 - Development of public library system
 - Movement from letters to journals as means of sharing knowledge (via the publication history of long running scientific journals)
 - Rise of a philosophy of 'public access,' beginning ca.1600



Concept: Open Access

- ❧ Key idea: Research output should be accessible to everyone
- ❧ Central topics, themes, and points of exploration:
 - Open access, theoretically
 - Open access to knowledge as a human right
 - Roles of scholars and libraries in the open access movement
 - Perception of open access publishing in order to establish why scholars might shy away from sharing their research in this type of venue
 - Practical paths for successfully implementing open access in a capitalist system



Concept: Open Source

- ❧ Key idea: Umbrella term for the practice of openly sharing, modifying, and reusing software code
- ❧ Central topics, themes, and points of exploration:
 - History of open source movement and the free software movement
 - Development of open source software
 - Potential of collaborative software development
 - Internet policy and privacy debates



Concept: Open Data

- ❧ Key idea: Availability and accessibility of research data
- ❧ Central topics, themes, and points of exploration:
 - Motivations for institutions and researchers to publish their data openly
 - Importance of preserving research data and metadata
 - Political implications of free data distribution (as opposed to corporate or institutional holdings)
 - Effectiveness of open data policies



Concept: Open Knowledge, Facilitated by Technology

- 🦋 Key idea: Using digital tools and platforms to facilitate open knowledge practices (like open access, open source, open data, and collaborative research)
- 🦋 Central topics, themes, and points of exploration:
 - Technologies and approaches that enable the development of open knowledge
 - Relationship between open knowledge and social justice
 - Studying successful social movements or influential open knowledge projects / initiatives



Concept: Alternative Publishing Methods

- ❧ Key idea: Various discourses and experimentation exploring optimal ways to create, access, and represent knowledge
- ❧ Central topics, themes, and points of exploration:
 - Shift from primarily print-based formats to online digital mediums
 - Scope of knowledge outreach
 - Open access publication
 - Alternative systems of peer review
 - Building new forms of digital scholarly editions of primary materials, such as social and visualization-based editions



Concept: Citizen Science

- ❧ Key idea: Research initiatives that are partially or wholly conducted by non-specialists
- ❧ Central topics, themes, and points of exploration:
 - Recent increase in citizen-driven projects
 - Debate over data reliability with non-expert production
 - Crowdsourcing practices and gamification
 - Role of citizen science in educating the public



Concept: Knowledge Mobilization

- 🦋 Key idea: Dissemination and uptake of research output
- 🦋 Central topics, themes, and points of exploration:
 - Interrogating gap between the amount of research produced and how much of this knowledge is actually implemented into practice
 - Strategies for knowledge mobilization
 - Innovative forms of knowledge transfer that are more inclusive of typically marginalized groups



Concept: Community Engagement

- ❧ Key idea: Creating and maintaining partnerships between institutions of higher education and community groups
- ❧ Central topics, themes, and points of exploration:
 - How university-community partnerships evolve over time
 - Importance of community-engaged scholarship and the reasons why it should become a common practice in the university
 - Benefits and challenges of partnerships
 - Role of technology in community engagement and collaboration



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Concept: Conceptual Evolution

- ❧ **Exploring these key ideas, central topics and themes**
 - Via ...
- ❧ **Targeted Meetings (of the Implementing New Knowledge Environments partnership)**
 - Networked Open Social Scholarship (2017 Victoria)
 - New Knowledge Models: Sustaining Partnerships to Transform Scholarly Production (2016 Whistler)
 - Sustaining Partnerships to Transform Scholarly Production (2015 Whistler)
 - Research Foundations for Understanding Books and Reading in the Digital Age: Emerging Reading, Writing, and Research Practices (2014 Sydney AU)



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Implementing New Knowledge Environments (INKE) is a collaborative group of researchers and graduate research assistants working with other organizations and partners to explore the digital humanities, electronic scholarly communication, and the affordances of electronic text.

Engagement



Modelling



Interface



Integration



6 1/2 YEARS OF INKE

OVER 140 SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS
(ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS AND BOOKS)



AN AVERAGE OF
1 EVERY 17 DAYS

OVER 450 PRESENTATIONS
(CONFERENCE PAPERS AND TALKS)



AN AVERAGE OF
1 EVERY 5.27 DAYS

15 WORKING TOOLS AND PROTOTYPES



AN AVERAGE OF
2.3 PER YEAR



53 GRA'S, 19 POSTDOCS
AND 4 STAFF MEMBERS HIRED



42 RESEARCHERS AND CONSULTANTS

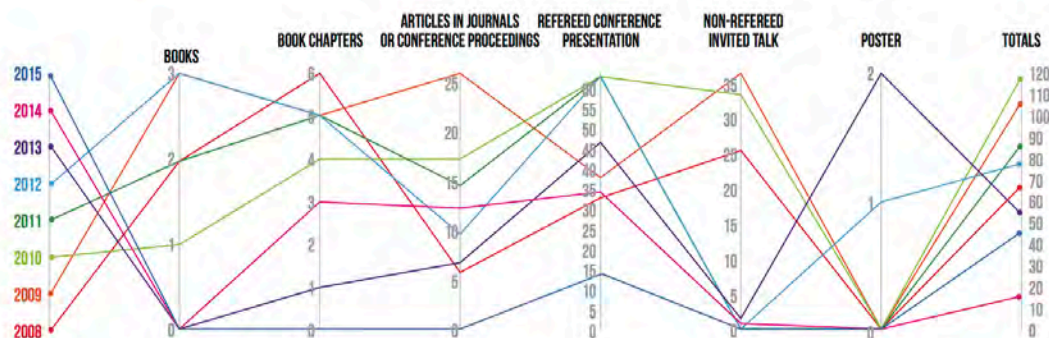


30 PARTNERS AND ASSOCIATES



1.5 GATHERINGS PER YEAR
HELD IN 4 CONTINENTS

SUMMARY





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Concept: Exploratory Engagement



🦋 Targeted Theoretical Intervention

- Article: “Toward Modeling the Social Edition: An Approach to Understanding the Electronic Scholarly Edition in the Context of New and Emerging Social Media” (incl. Meagan Timney, Cara Leitch, Corina Koolen, and Alex Garnett)
- Explores building blocks in extant and emerging social media toward the possibilities they offer to the scholarly edition in electronic form, positing that we are witnessing the nascent stages of a new ‘social’ edition existing at the intersection of social media and digital editing.



Concept: Exploratory Engagement

❧ Experimental / Experiential Research

- (incl. Karin Armstrong, Barbara Bond, Constance Crompton, and others)



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A Social Edition of the Devonshire MS (BL Add. MS 17492)

The latest reviewed version was checked on 31 August 2016. There are 3 pending changes awaiting review.

Contents [edit]

- Acknowledgments** · **Note on the Edition** · **Pages Images (British Library)**
- A Study of the Devonshire Manuscript**
 - Introduction: The First Sustained Example of Men and Women Writing Together in the English Tradition
 - Overview · The Works of the Devonshire Manuscript · Public and Private, Personal and Communal · Current and Popular Contexts
 - Contributors to the Devonshire Manuscript
 - Biographies
 - Genealogical Tables
 - Family and Affairs of Henry VIII · The Howard Family · The Boleyn Family · Connections of the Boleyn, Knyvet, Shelton, and Howard Families
 - Textual and Bibliographic Materials
 - Textual Introduction
 - Bibliographic Analysis · Provenance · Punctuation and Scribal Marks · Transcription

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Concept: Functional Definition

- ❧ **Open social scholarship involves creating and disseminating research and research technologies to a broad audience of specialists and active non-specialists in ways that are accessible and significant. As a concept, it has grown from roots in open access and open scholarship movements, the digital humanities' methodological commons and community of practice, contemporary online practices, and public facing citizen scholarship.**



Concept: Functional Definition



❧ OSS includes

- i) developing, sharing, and implementing research in ways that consider the needs and interests of both academic specialists and communities beyond academia;
- ii) providing opportunities to co-create, interact with, and experience openly-available cultural data;
- iii) exploring, developing, and making public tools and technologies under open licenses to promote wide access, education, use, and repurposing; and
- iv) enabling productive dialogue between academics and non-academics.



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Overview



❧ Context

❧ Concept

❧ **Action(s): Canadian Social
Knowledge Institute (C-SKI)**

- Making OSS Possible
 - Awareness, Understanding, Training
- Making OSS Tangible
 - Activities
- Taking OSS to the Next Level



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Canadian Social Knowledge Institute (C-SKI)



- ❧ Actively engages issues related to networked open social scholarship.
- ❧ Activities include awareness raising, knowledge mobilization, training, public engagement, scholarly communication, and pertinent research and development on local, national, and international levels.
- ❧ Bringing together existing and new initiatives.



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Canadian Social Knowledge Institute (C-SKI)



¶ **Partners, through INKE, include:** Advanced Research Consortium (ARC), Cdn Association of Learned Journals (CALJ), Cdn Association of Research Libraries (CARL), Cdn Institute for Studies in Publishing (CISP), Cdn Research Knowledge Network (CRKN), Compute Canada, Cdn Writing Research Collaboratory (CWRC), Canadiana, Digital Humanities Research Group (DHRG; U Western Sydney), Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI), Electronic Textual Cultures Lab (ETCL), Edith Cowan U, Érudit, Cdn Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Iter: Gateway to the Renaissance, J.E. Halliwell Associates, Public Knowledge Project (PKP), Simon Fraser U Library, Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP), *Scholarly and Research Communication* (SRC), U Victoria Libraries, and Voyant Tools, among others.



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Making OSS Possible: Awareness, Understanding, Training



- ❧ The Open Social Scholarship course stream at the annual Digital Humanities Summer Institute (DHSI) comprises courses that are purposefully focused on public engagement, social issues, and creative approaches to scholarly communication. DHSI is a partnership of over 30 institutions and academic organisations, attracting 875 attendees in 2017. Dedicated tuition scholarships for this stream.

- 2017/18 courses:

- "Digital Public Humanities," Mia Tootill (Cornell U)
- "Accessibility and Digital Environments," George H. Williams (U South Carolina, Upstate) and Erin Templeton (Converse C)
- "Ethical Collaboration in the Digital Humanities," Daniel Powell (King's C London)
- "Feminist Digital Humanities: Theoretical, Social, and Material Engagements," Elizabeth Losh (U California, San Diego) and Jessica Johnson (Michigan State U)
- "Digital Games as Interactive Tools for Scholarly Research, Communication and Pedagogy," Jon Saklofske (Acadia U)
- "Race, Social Justice, and DH: Applied Theories and Methods" Dorothy Kim (Vassar C) and David Nieves (Hamilton C)
- "Queer Digital Humanities: Intersections, Interrogations, Iterations" by Jason Boyd (Ryerson U) and James Howe (Rutgers U)
- "Digital Publishing in the Humanities," by Sarah Melton (Boston C) and Anandi Salinas (Emory U)
- "Digital Storytelling," John Barber (Washington State U, Vancouver)
- "Open Access and Open Social Scholarship," Alyssa Arbuckle (U Victoria)



Making OSS Possible: Awareness, Understanding, Training



❧ *Open Scholarship Policy Observatory*

- INKE Partnership members and stakeholders who collect research, track findings and national and international policy changes, and facilitate understanding of open social scholarship across Canada and internationally.
- Aids in influencing / implementing policy. Reflects findings to partners and stakeholders, along with local institutions, associations, consortia, and government bodies, in order to assist these groups with developing timely and responsive policies.

❧ Development lead is Sarah Milligan.



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Making OSS Possible: Awareness, Understanding, Training

- 🦋 Award for Engaged, Open Scholarship
 - 🦋 First recipients will be announced in June





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Making OSS Tangible: Activities

FEDERATION FOR THE
**HUMANITIES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES**



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Libraries

- ❧ **Honorary Resident Wikipedian (Constance Crompton, 2017-18)**
- ❧ In partnership with the U Victoria Library and the Federation of the Humanities and Social Sciences. This role was previously held by Dr. Christian Vandendorpe from 2014–16.
- ❧ Presentation, “Curation to Creation: Wikipedia’s Contribution to Open Knowledge,” opened the ETCL/UVic Libraries most recent Wikipedia edit-a-thon on April 3rd 2017.



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Making OSS Tangible: Activities



❧ Open Knowledge Practicum

- Invites members of the community, as well as university faculty, staff, and students, to pursue their own research projects for dissemination and engagement in an open format. Some local support provided.
- To date, practicums have spanned a wide array of topics, ranging from discipline-specific foci to local public history and research on the broader community: War Poetry, LGBT Rights in India, Cryptography, Old Norse MS Images, and Japanese-Canadian Internment.

❧ Led by Randa El Khatib.



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Making OSS Tangible: Activities



🦋 Social Media Engine

- Engaging in new patterns of social conveyance and interaction in the location of academic materials
- Aims to instigate public engagement, open social scholarship, and social knowledge creation by facilitating the matching of readers with relevant OA publications. Identifies trending topics in social media represented in OA scholarly literature, and enriches ongoing discussion by aligning them and returning results to the discussion (for those who wish it).

🦋 Development lead is Luis Meneses.



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Taking OSS to the Next Level

- ❧ Cdn HSS Commons
- ❧ Fosters an environment for Canadian HSS researchers to share, access, re-purpose, and develop scholarly data, tools, and resources.
- ❧ Adapts the extant Modern Language Association *Humanities Commons* platform, linking INKE Partnership tools, prototypes, services, and projects, as well as integrating institutional repositories, project development, and people. Makes research data and tools visible and accessible, and encourages OSS culture.

FEDERATION FOR THE
**HUMANITIES AND
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HUMANITIES
COMMONS





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