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SI 640 DIGITAL LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

2010 Week 5: Transformations and Representations

THEMES FOR THIS WEEK

- Transformations
 - Representation and remediation
- Text and image
 - Mark Twain
- Text transformation
- More examples

"It is a little humbling to look back and admit that we are still asking many of the difficult questions that we were asking over a decade ago."

Puglia and Rhodes, *"Digital imaging,"* 2007

TWO TYPES OF LARGE COLLECTIONS

Thematic

The Walt Whitman Archive
Ed Folsom & Kenneth M. Price, Editors

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Published Works
[Leaves](#); [Periodical Printings](#); [Foreign Editions](#)

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News & Updates

July 2008
The Archive nears its fundraising goal of \$1.5 million for NEH challenge grant. [Help us meet the challenge.](#)

June 2008
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August 2006
Integrated finding guide to Whitman's poetry manuscripts is [honored with the C.F.W. Coker Award](#).

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Funding and support provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the US Department of Education, the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, University of Iowa, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities at the University of Virginia.

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General Purpose

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Search

[Finding Aids](#) | [Images](#) | [Texts](#)

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Keyword


[GO](#)


Truncation: **cloth*** finds cloths, clothing, etc.
Exact phrase: Enter **"Gold Rush"**


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Browse Images
Place mouse on pictures to get more information, click to browse pictures

History


Nature


People


Places


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TRANSFORMATIONS: REPRESENTATION

“...representation is always *of* something or someone, *by* something or someone, *to* someone.”

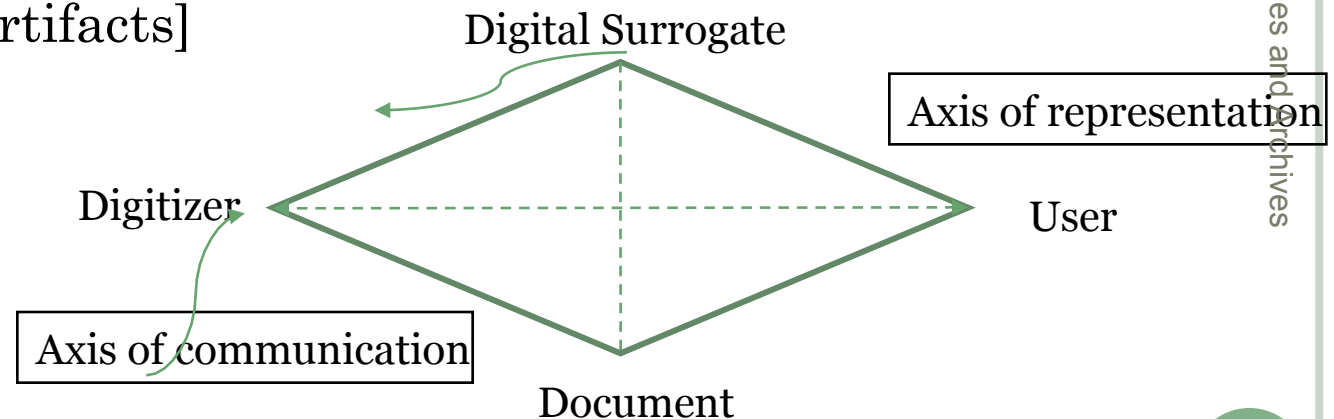
1. Transformation

2. Text/Image

3. Text

4. Examples

- Intentionality [camera | scanner]
- Technical decisions [darkroom | “photoshop”]
- Materiality [content | historical digital artifacts]



MATERIALITY AND MEANING

1. Transformation

2. Text/Image

3. Text

4. Examples

- Photo-realism masks human meaning making [intention, subject matter, format, target audience] (Schwartz 2000)
- Some meanings not translated into digital form (Koltun 1999)
- Formerly joined – materiality and meaning now result in ‘ephemeral ghost’ (Sassoon 2004)
- “Original” is fiction: surrogate may be superior (Mitchell 2003)

REMEDIATION

1. Transformation

2. Text/Image

3. Text

4. Examples

- Bolter and Grusin (1996/1999)
 - What is the concept?
 - Is it relevant?
 - Digital applications

“...we call the representation of one medium in another "remediation," and we will argue that remediation is a defining characteristic of the new digital media.”

REMEDICATION AND RENDERING

1. Transformation

2. Text/Image

3. Text

4. Examples

“Our culture wants both to multiply its media and erase all traces of mediation...” (Bolter & Grusin 1996).

- Transparency is goal
 - Hypermediacy: presence of old in new gives a sense of multiplicity
 - Technologies of rendering (making visible) are tools for mediating mediation
- “No text is an innocent by-product...but rather a constructed product,” perhaps unconsciously [Cook 2001]

PICTORIAL RENDERING INTENT

1. Transformation

2. Text/Image

3. Text

4. Examples

- ❑ The photographic image is rendered. (As Is)
 - Match appearance of original
- ❑ The original appearance of the photograph is rendered. (As Was)
 - Reverse aging (color fading, physical damage)
- ❑ The photographer's goal is rendered. (As Desired)
 - Adjust for errors in exposure or processing
- ❑ The original scene is rendered. (As Seen)
 - Remove effects of intermediate

RE-PRESENTATION FRAMEWORK

1. Transformation

2. Text/Image

3. Text

4. Examples

		Material Artifact	
		Tangible (+)	Intangible (-)
Ageing	Now	As Is [Retain effects of aging] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlled match to original Color, tone, noise 	As Desired [Approximate appearance of intended product] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tone /color enhancement Polarity shift [negatives]
	Then	As Was [Recreate original appearance] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tone / color correction Blemish removal Sharpen mask 	As Seen [Content transcends media] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No border Cropping Remove all artifact effects

TRANSFORMATIONS: QUALITY DIMENSIONS

Intrinsic

- Reliability
- Objectivity
- Accuracy
- Believability

Contextual

- ▶ Timeliness/Currency
- ▶ Value Added/Uniqueness
- ▶ Relevancy
- ▶ Scope/Depth

Representational

- ▶ Conciseness
- ▶ Completeness
- ▶ Consistency
- ▶ Understandability

Accessibility

- ▶ Reliability
- ▶ Security
- ▶ Efficiency
- ▶ Usability

Shirlee-ann Knight. *User Perceptions of Information Quality in World Wide Web Information Retrieval Behaviour*. Unpublished Doctoral Dissertation, Edith Cowan University, 2008.

TWO TYPES OF LARGE COLLECTIONS

Thematic



The screenshot shows the homepage of The Walt Whitman Archive. The header is dark blue with the title 'The Walt Whitman Archive' and editors 'Ed Folsom & Kenneth M. Price, Editors'. A search bar is on the right. The left sidebar lists categories: Published Works, Manuscripts, Biography & Correspondence, Criticism, Pictures & Sound, Resources, and About the Archive. The main content area features a large portrait of Walt Whitman and a 'News & Updates' section with three entries from July, June, and August 2008.

The Walt Whitman Archive
Ed Folsom & Kenneth M. Price, Editors

Published Works
[Leaves](#); [Periodical Printings](#); [Foreign Editions](#)

Manuscripts
[Transcriptions and Images](#); [Finding Aids](#); [More...](#)

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General Purpose



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Online Archive of California (OAC). The header is blue with the OAC logo and navigation links. A search bar is prominent. Below the search bar, there are tabs for 'Finding Aids', 'Images', and 'Texts'. The 'Images' tab is selected, showing a grid of image thumbnails categorized by 'History', 'Nature', 'People', 'Places', 'Society', and 'Technology'. A sidebar on the right provides information about the archive's access to tens of thousands of images.

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Search

Related Pages:
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Keyword

[GO](#)

Truncation: **cloth*** finds cloths, clothing, etc.
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Browse Images
Place mouse on pictures to get more information, click to browse pictures

History
[GOLD REGION DIRECT](#)

Nature
[Nature](#)

People
[People](#)

Places
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Fall 2010

SI 640 Digital Libraries and Archives

TEXT AND IMAGE INTERMINGLED

1. Transformation

2. Text/Image

3. Text

4. Examples

- Text only (TEI or similar mark up)
 - Perseus Digital Library
 - <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/>
- Image only (pictures of text)
 - AmMem Travel Notes
 - <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/lhtnhtml/lhtnhome.html>
- Image over text
 - Making of America (Cornell and Michigan)
 - <http://digital.library.cornell.edu/m/moa/>
- Text over image
 - Documenting American South
 - <http://docsouth.unc.edu/>
- Text and image
 - Carrie Watkins Cookbook (Missouri Heritage)
 - <http://campus.jewell.edu/academics/curry/library/digital/cwatkins/index.html>

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

1. Transformation
2. **Text/Image**
3. Text
4. Examples

- What about text and image in the same object?
- What about metadata associations with text and image?
- What is the connection between source and representation?
- How consistent within a given collection of sources? Across collections through aggregation?

TEXT AND IMAGE: MARK TWAIN

1. Transformation
2. Representation
3. Text/Image
4. Text
5. Examples

- Deeply **collaborative** (archivists/scholars)
 - Who is in charge?
- Strongly **archival** in its approach
 - What, exactly, do we mean by this?
- A **publishing** enterprise
 - What is being transformed?
- Technologically **innovative**
 - **Archival finding aids** and support for documentary editing

Mark Twain Project: <http://www.marktwainproject.org/>

TEXT TRANSLATION

1. Transformation
2. Representation
3. Text/Image
4. **Text**
5. Examples

- Matt Cohen on Walt Whitman mark up
- TEI encoding as “de-formation”
- TEI encoding as translation (a textual form of remediation)

“This step—including a critical deformation in an archive known more for its historical bent than experiments in digital criticism—may be seen as a gesture towards a different way of thinking about archival politics.”

Manuscript view:

<http://www.whitmanarchive.org/manuscripts/transcriptions/bpl.00007.html>

Leaves of Grass view:

<http://whitmanarchive.org/published/LG/1881/poems/8>

TEXT AND CULTURAL MEMORY

1. Transformation
2. Representation
3. Text/Image
4. **Text**
5. Examples

- Study of development of digital collections of cultural heritage sources
 - Institutional context of DL development
 - University dominance
 - Content analysis
 - Biography, time and space
 - Assess nature of representation

EXAMPLES

- 1. Transformation
- 2. Representation
- 3. Text/Image
- 4. Text
- 5. Examples

- Whitman Archive
 - <http://www.whitmanarchive.org/>
- Valley of the Shadow
 - <http://valley.lib.virginia.edu/>
- Denver Public Library
 - <http://history.denverlibrary.org/images/index.html>
- Civil War Washington
 - <http://civilwardc.org/>
- Mornings on Maple Street
 - <http://www.morningsonmaplestreet.com/lewishine.html>

Thank you!

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www.si.umich.edu

Additional Source Information

for more information see: <http://open.umich.edu/wiki/CitationPolicy>

Slide 5: The Walt Whitman Archive, <http://www.whitmanarchive.org/>; Online Archive of California, <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/>

Slide 6: Source Undetermined

Slide 11: Paul Conway

Slide 13: The Walt Whitman Archive, <http://www.whitmanarchive.org/>; Online Archive of California, <http://www.oac.cdlib.org/>