

Editors' Notes as a Genre: editorsnotes.org

Michael Buckland, University of California, Berkeley

Patrick Golden and Ryan B. Shaw, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Abstract

Notes are usually viewed in relation to annotation, but working notes have always been pervasive in humanities scholarship using slips of paper, cards, and now word-processing. Notes on persons, places, events, institutions, and topics are needed to understand context. Working notes ordinarily also include fragments of relevant evidence including photocopies, newspaper clippings, and quotations. Not all of this material can be included in a formal publication, so these working notes mostly remain unpublished, inaccessible, and, when a project ends, may be discarded. The 19th-century periodical *Notes & Queries* pioneered the sharing of notes, questions, and evidence.

Documentary editors assemble large numbers of working notes about unresolved questions, sources examined, intriguing leads, and useful explanations, which may not cite a point in the edited text. The "Editorial Practices and the Web" project examined editors' working notes in a collaboration with three documentary editing projects with overlapping scope: The papers of Emma Goldman, of Margaret Sanger, and of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony.

A Web-based platform is provided for editors and their assistants to place, share, and revise their notes, often starting with a question then gradually completing an answer: **editorsnotes.org**. Access can be restricted note by note or project by project, but the default is to share openly on the Web and be indexed by Web search engines. Creating or modifying notes remains tightly controlled. The site has also been used for notes of archivists, library special collection curators, and a historian.

Treating working notes as a distinct genre, not exclusively tied to a literary or historical document, and allowing Web access to them enables isolated scholars to identify related material, reduces duplicative work, and greatly increases the benefit derived from the investment of funding and of effort.

The data model designed for the easy export of records opens new possibilities for low-cost, long-term digital preservation and sustainability by reducing dependence on complex service-oriented computer architecture. The software, almost entirely built using existing available open source software, is at <https://github.com/editorsnotes>. We seek to support other examples of humanities research notes.

Note. Example of an "open" (not yet completed) note with link to associated Topic heading and (below) list of cited sources (not all shown, some annotated).

Helen Keller — opposition to World War 1

This note is **open**

Project [The Emma Goldman Papers](#)

Related topics
[Keller, Helen, 1880-1968](#)

Private No

License

Author [Patrick Golden](#)

Last updated Aug. 24, 2011, 10:50 a.m. ([view history](#))

DESCRIPTION

Question: Did Keller actively oppose the war in Europe, or just US involvement in it? Especially year 1915.

She actively campaigned against the war in general- and not just US involvement in it-- from the end of 1915. She did not go to Europe with Henry Ford's "peace ship" during this time because, according to her, the peace desired by Ford and other pacifists was one that would leave capitalism intact, do nothing about the exploitation of workers, and inevitably result in more (capitalist) wars in the future. In a speech originally given on December 19 and then repeated in the following weeks, she advocated for the creation of a global union that would unite workers and soldiers against the governments making them fight each other. These views were similar to those held by other radicals at the time who were not pacifists, but rather believed in "no war but the class war."

"HELEN KELLER FINDS DEFENSE PLANS BAD". *The New York Times*, December 20, 1915.

Editors' Notes Browse About Search Log in

Occupation influences on Librarianship in Japan, 1945-1952 > Topics > Japan Library School

Japan Library School

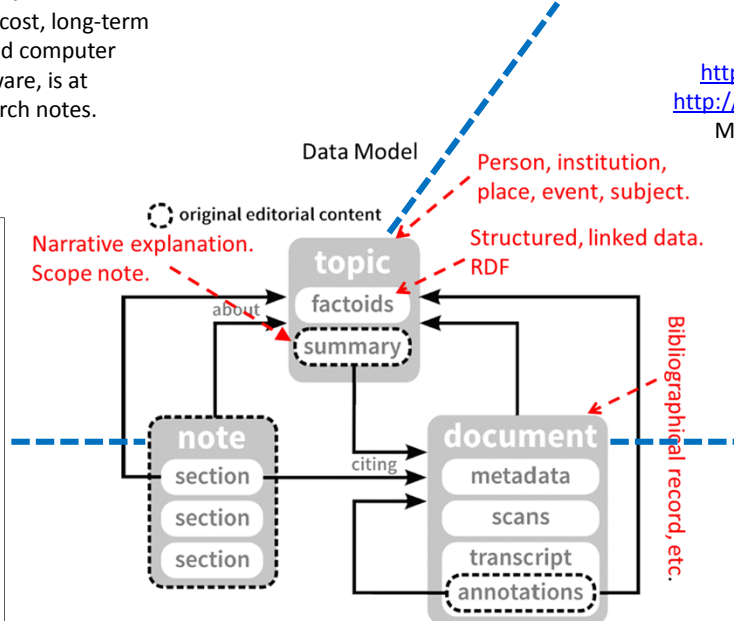
Article Related Notes & Queries (2) Related Documents (1)

The Japan Library School was established at Keio University Mita campus in Tokyo in 1951. Renamed School of Library and Information Science effective 1 April 1968. Keio University was founded by Fukuzawa Yukich (1835-1901), author, Enlightenment writer, teacher, translator, entrepreneur and journalist.

Sources

- Robert L. Gitler, *Robert Gitler and the Japan Library School: An Autobiographical Narrative*, ed. Michael K. Buckland (Lanham, MD: Scarecrow Press, 1999).
- Takahisa Sawamoto, "Keio University School of Library and Information Science: Its Past, Present and Future," *Library and Information Science* 9 (1971): 11-13.

Topic. Example with brief summary, links (top) to related notes and documents within editorsnotes.org, and (below) to external authority sources. Linked data not shown.



Additional information
<http://ecai.org/mellon2010/> Project website
<http://editorsnotes.org/> Editors' Notes database
Michael Buckland <buckland@berkeley.edu>
Ryan Shaw <ryanshaw@unc.edu>

Document Example. A previously unpublished manuscript with a transcript and link to explanatory note.

ITEM TYPE	Manuscript
Transcript	Related Notes & Queries (1)
TITLE	Unified Library Service for Japan
AUTHOR	Philip O. Keeney
TYPE	Typescript memorandum and cover note
PLACE	Tokyo
DATE	8 April 1946
# OF PAGES	1 + 5
SHORT TITLE	Keeney Plan
ARCHIVE	University of California, Berkeley, Bancroft Library
CALL NUMBER	MSS 71/157 Box 2
RIGHTS	Public domain
EXTRA	Photocopy of carbon copy

Acknowledgments: We are very grateful to our collaborators and for support from the A. W. Mellon Foundation, the Coleman Fung Foundation, the Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative, U.C. Berkeley School of Information, and the UNC, Chapel Hill, School of Information and Library Science. June 18, 2015.