Open Access to Working Notes in the Humanities

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ecai.org/mellon2010
editorsnotes.org
metadata.berkeley.edu/berlin2014.ppt

OpenSym, San Francisco, Aug 20, 2015
A Case Study: Documentary Editions

Berkeley: Papers of Emma Goldman, 1869-1940, Anarchist.

Problems of Documentary Editions

Requires specialized expertise for many years and research.

Funding is difficult.

Much of the editors’ research not included because inconclusive or marginally relevant to the publication.

Limitations of the printed edition: Costly. Limit on number of pages, so editors’ notes reduced. Small editions bought by libraries. Not widely available.

Relatively isolated work.

Working notes and unpublished notes discarded.

*The return on investment far less than it could be.*
Project Objectives

Gain in efficiency through collaborative, shared access to working notes among related projects.

Increased return on investment by making editors’ notes promptly and more fully available through Web publication.

More effective interoperability with archival finding aids, library pathfinders, and other scholarly infrastructure as all become more closely associated in digital environment.

Concerned with notes whether or not annotations.

Inspired by Notes & Queries genre.
A Digital Remedy

*Save as .html!* Make working notes available soon on a webpage as well as published edition. Immediately available. Indexed by Google, etc.

*Ideas*
- Notes in memory or handwritten
- Notes keyed or scanned

*Working notes*
- Notes, clippings, images. in folders, boxes,
- Files in digital repositories

*Notes*
- Brief notes in published volume
- Detailed notes rapidly web accessible

More a change in work practice than a technical challenge.
Data Model

Person, institution, place, event, subject.

Structured, linked data.

RDF

Narrative explanation.

Scope note.

original editorial content

note

section

section

section

topic

factoids

summary

document

metadata

scans

transcript

annotations

citing

about

Bibliographical record, etc.
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 the war to "peace ship" during this time because, according to her, the peace desired by Ford and other pacifists was nothing about the exploitation of workers, and inevitably result in more (capitalist) wars in the future. In articles repeated in the following weeks, she advocated for the creation of a global union that would unite workers to prevent such war. These views were similar to those held by other radicals at the time who were not so我把 most of the war.

A “Document” is a bibliographical citation, possibly with a scan or transcript added and links to related topics and notes.

Zotero used as front end for entering bibliographical data.

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Software: All open access

- **Django**  Python web framework
- **PostgreSQL**  using native support for XML fields
- **ElasticSearch**  for full-text searching
- **Zotero**  for input and editing of bibliographic data
- **Open Refine** (prev. Google Refine) for duplicate detection
Future plans

- **New site** workingnotes.org
- **Platform for research seminar**: Maritime Buddhism.
- **Undergraduate research course platform**.
- **Micro publications**: Structured alternative to blogs
- **Translators’ notes**: Collaboration; encyclopedia on text.
- **Upload to library repositories**: For preservation; access.
Integration with existing infrastructure

Web search engines

Internet Portals (e.g. DPLA)

GitHub

Hub Repository

[Library] server

Learners

Scholars

Learners
Looking Forward

- Environment like a shared office.
- Liberate the notes!
- Notes as a primary resource.
- Preserve the ‘workshop’.
- Published volumes as derivative.

These slides:  http://metadata.berkeley.edu/opensym2015.pdf
Editors’ Notes website:  editorsnotes.org
Project website, documentation:  ecai.org/mellon2010
Description:  metadata.berkeley.edu/digdocbuckland.pdf

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