MULTIMODAL MONOGRAPHS

Content, Collaboration, Community

Library Publishing Forum 2022
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Sarah McKee, Emory University, Digital Publishing in the Humanities

Overview

- On June 15, 2022, Brown University and Emory University published the findings of a spring 2021 summit on multimodal digital monographs. With its focus on scholarly content, the summit convened scholars, institutional support staff, and representatives from university presses. Eight case studies either recently published or in development provided the platform for in-depth, evidence-based discussions on the most pressing concerns and challenges facing stakeholders in digital scholarly publishing today.

- Topics ranged from cross-institutional collaboration, community engagement, professional development, and diversity, equity, and inclusion to open access, peer review, metadata and discoverability, preservation, and sustainability.

- This presentation provides the first post-summit opportunity for dialogue and reflection on the current and future landscape of digital publishing as well as the growing alignment between research libraries and scholarly presses.

THE BACKSTORY

Mellon's Digital Monograph Initiative

- Efforts to reimagine the monograph for the 21st century got underway in 2014 with the launch of the Mellon Foundation's Digital Monograph Initiative. Forty-eight months into this program, the Foundation made a total of 52 grants for a total of $19.6 million.

- While a large part of Mellon's investment went to building out the digital infrastructure available to university presses, the Foundation also sought to support the community of scholars trying to publish their digital scholarship.

- To this end, a smaller number of grants was awarded to institutions experimenting with university-based models of support for faculty, which range from developmental editing and design support to help placing the work with suitable publishers.
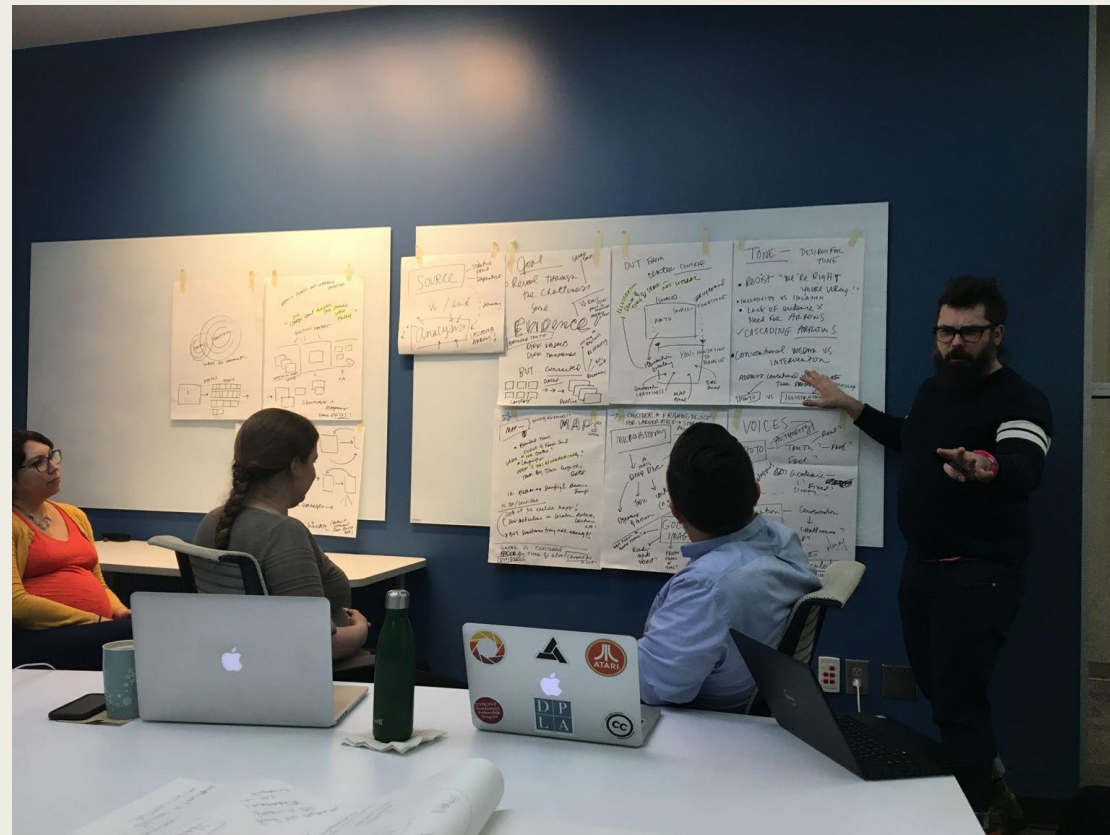
Digital Publications Initiative
Brown University

https://library.brown.edu/create/digitalpublications

Digital Publishing in the Humanities
Emory University

http://fchi.emory.edu/digitalpublishing

Germinal Days

- In February 2018, the Mellon Foundation hosted an all-projects meeting for many of the institutional support grantees. Representatives of these projects gathered in New York to share progress and challenges with one another during what were still germinal days.

- During this period, the Foundation also convened project teams from the university press cohort to promote collaboration between platform and tool developers.

- At LPF 2019 in Vancouver, Levy and McKee decide to foster an expanded conversation, one that privileges content and includes the scholars' perspective.
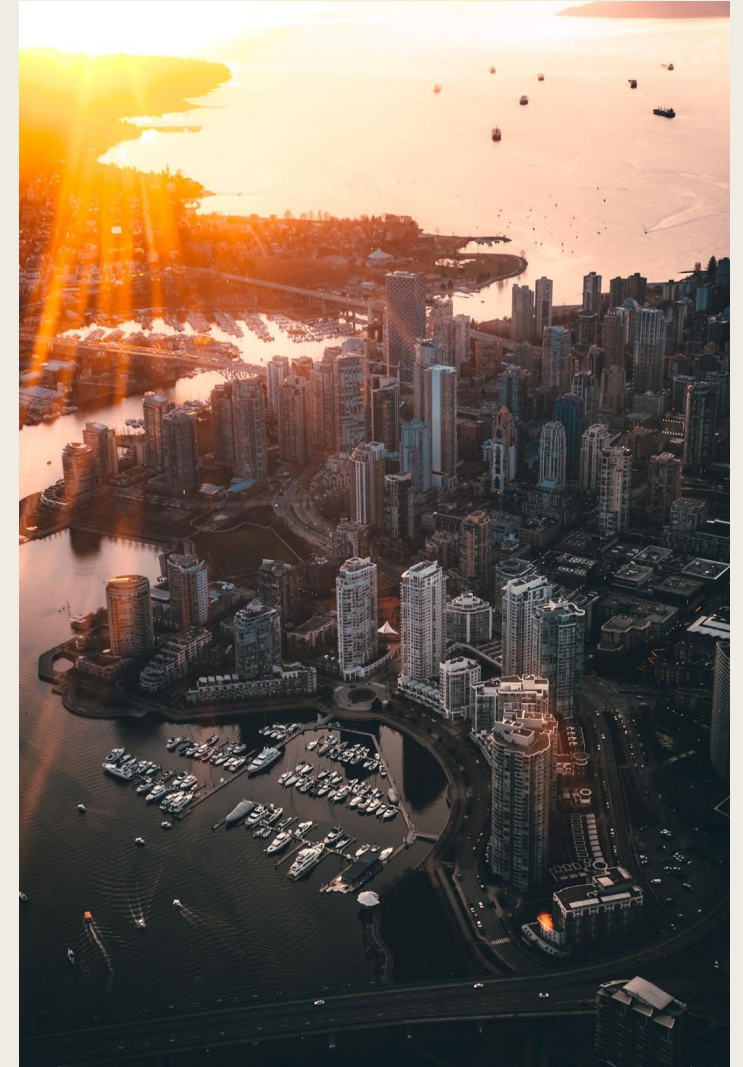

Photo by Brayden Law on Unsplash

THE SUMMIT

April 23, 2021

Spring Summit on Enhanced and Interactive Publications

- What models for publishing enhanced and interactive scholarly projects are emerging?

- What is working well? What are the common challenges that remain and how do we address them?

- How can we encourage a shared vocabulary for these digital publications among the wider scholarly communications community?

Case Studies

Author Considerations

Islamic Pasts and Futures: Horizons of Time by Shahzad Bashir, forthcoming as *A New Vision for Islamic Pasts and Futures* from MIT Press in October 2022. Presentation team:

- Shahzad Bashir, Aga Khan Professor of Islamic Humanities, Brown University
- Victoria Hindley, Acquisitions Editor, Design and Visual Culture, MIT Press
- Allison Levy, Digital Scholarship Editor, Brown University

Jim Crow in the Asylum: Psychiatry and Civil Rights in the American South by Kylie M. Smith, forthcoming from the University of North Carolina Press in 2023. Presentation team:

- Lucas Church, Editor, UNC Press
- Yang Li, Information Designer and Sr. Software Engineer, Emory University
- Sarah McKee, Sr. Associate Director for Publishing, Emory University
- Kylie M. Smith, Associate Professor and the Andrew W. Mellon Faculty Fellow for Nursing and the Humanities, Emory University

Acquisitions Considerations

Feral Atlas: The More-than-Human Anthropocene by Anna L. Tsing et al. (Stanford University Press, 2020). Presentation team:

- Jasmine Mulliken, Production and Preservation Manager for Digital Projects, Stanford University Press
- Friederike Sundaram, Senior Editor for Digital Projects, Stanford University Press (not in attendance)

Soul Liberty: The Evolution of Black Religious Politics in Postemancipation Virginia by Nicole Myers Turner (University of North Carolina Press, 2020). Presentation team:

- Jason Colman, Director, Michigan Publishing Services
- Elaine Maisner, Executive Editor, University of North Carolina Press
- Charles Watkinson, Director, University of Michigan Press, and Associate University Librarian for Publishing

Case Studies

Production Considerations

Sounding Spirit: Scholarly Editions from the Southern Sacred Music Diaspora edited by Jesse P. Karlsberg, forthcoming from the Emory Center for Digital Scholarship and the University of North Carolina Press in 20XX. Presentation team:

- Meredith Doster, Managing Editor at the Emory Center for Digital Scholarship
- Mark Simpson-Vos, Wyndham Robertson Editorial Director at the University of North Carolina Press

The Lab Book: Situated Practices in Media Studies by Darren Wershler, Lori Emerson, and Jussi Parikka, a work in progress by the University of Minnesota Press. Presentation team:

- Susan Doerr, Associate Director at the University of Minnesota Press
- Matthew K. Gold, Associate Professor of English and Digital Humanities and Advisor to the Provost for Digital Initiatives at the Graduate Center, CUNY
- Terence Smyre, Manifold Digital Projects Editor

Post-Production Considerations

Furnace and Fugue: A Digital Edition of Michael Maier's Atalanta fugiens (1618) with Scholarly Commentary edited by Tara Nummedal and Donna Bilak (University of Virginia Press, 2020). Presentation team:

- Crystal Brusch, Digital Publications Designer, Brown University
- Jason Coleman, Marketing and Sales Director, University of Virginia Press
- Tara Nummedal, Professor of History and co-editor of *Furnace and Fugue*, Brown University
- Nadine Zimmerli, Editor, History and Social Sciences, University of Virginia Press

As I Remember It: Teachings (ʔəms taʔaw) from the Life of a Sliammon Elder by Elsie Paul with Davis McKenzie, Paige Raibmon, and Harmony Johnson (University of British Columbia Press, 2019). Presentation team:

- Darcy Cullen, Assistant Director, Acquisitions, UBC Press and RavenSpace Founder
- Beth Fuget, Grants and Digital Projects Manager, University of Washington Press and RavenSpace Liaison for University of Washington Press

Content

"It was really important for me that the book be accessible to and for the people who are part of the story…. I don't see the publication necessarily as the end of the work. I feel that there is something much bigger happening here."

– Kylie Smith
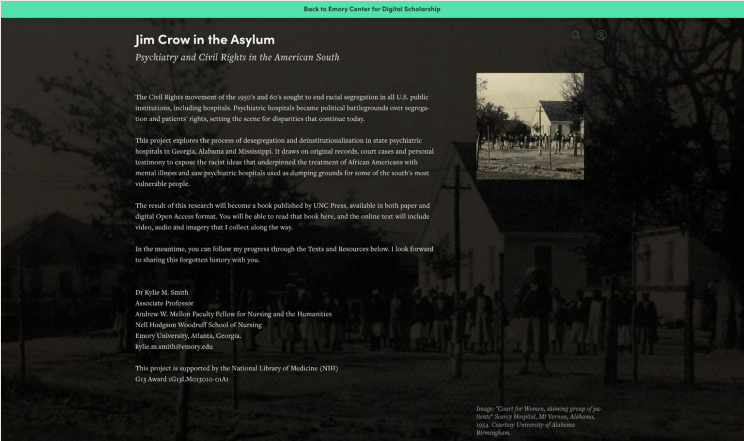
Collaboration

"Everybody has been willing to try things – and to try again when things don't work out. That empathy for one another is so important, really understanding that we're all learning together."
– Susan Doerr
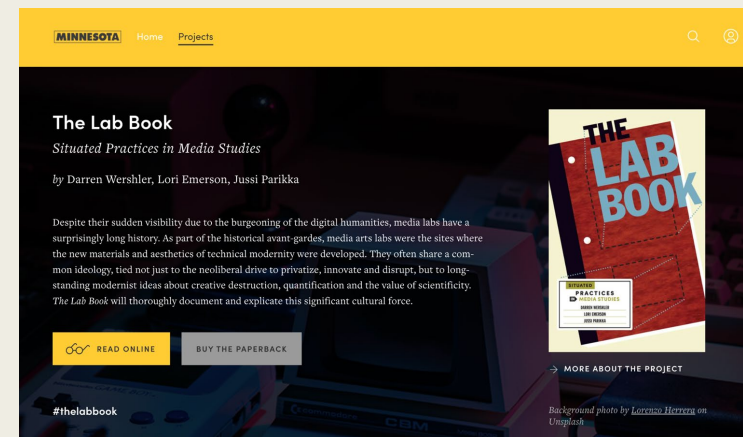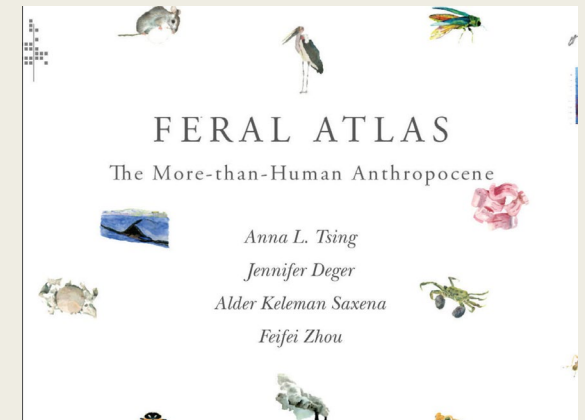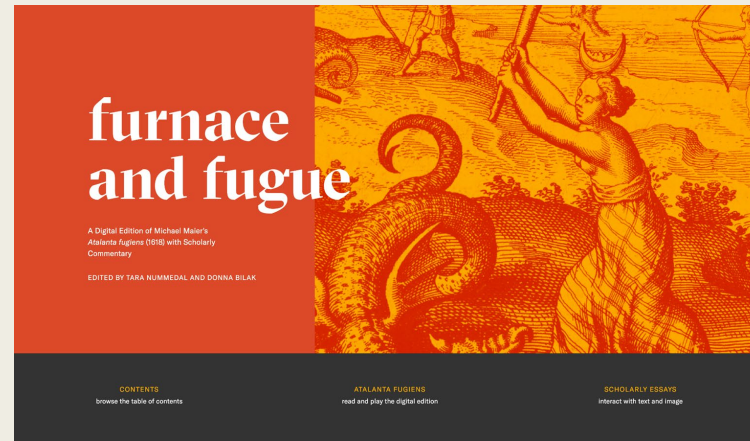
Community

"As publishers talk about connecting publications with their audiences, we use words like marketing or promoting or dissemination, but sharing is another word that's very much in the spirit of what we and our authors are trying to do … what we hope to create is a space for the reciprocal sharing of knowledge and experiences."
– Beth Fuget
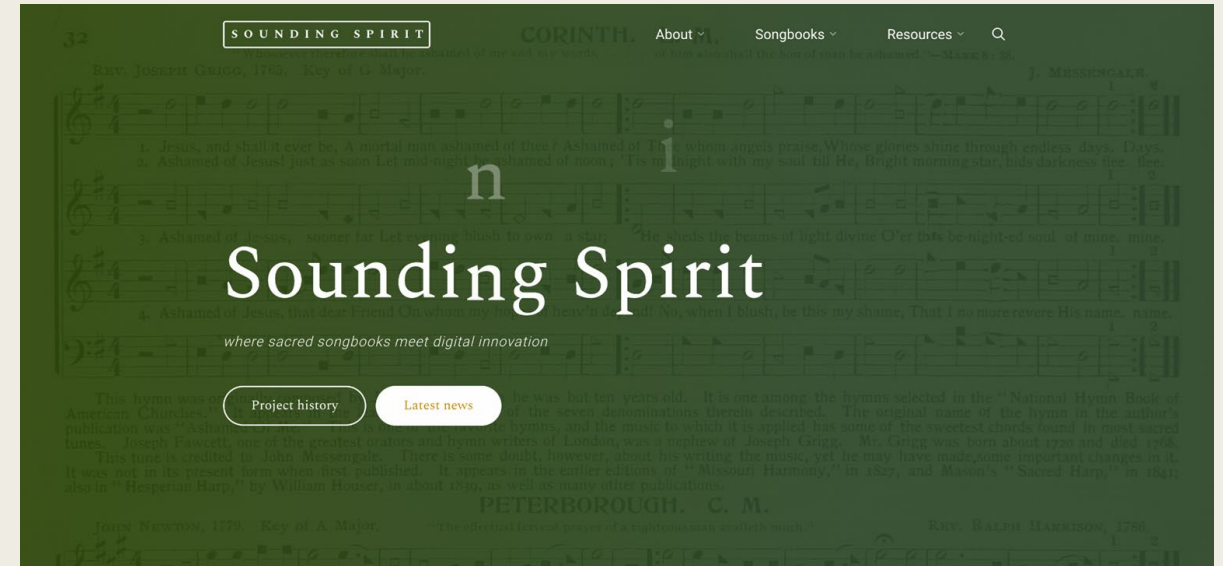
Expanding Pathways
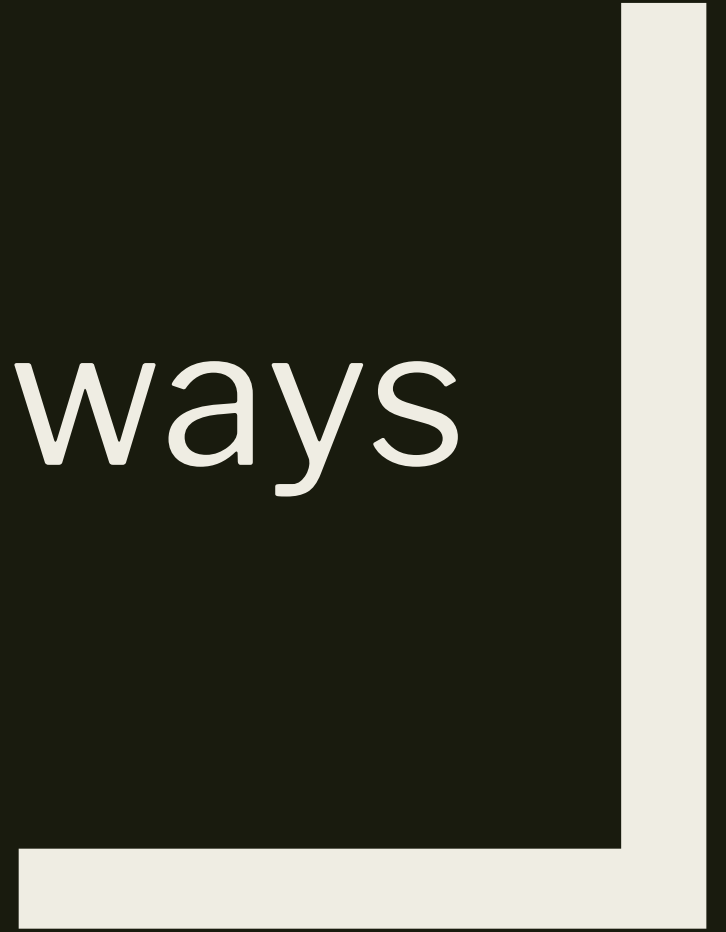
Moving Ahead

Common Priorities

- interactivity and multimodality to advance complex arguments

- accessible and ethical engagement with audiences beyond the academy

- collaboration, resource sharing, and collegiality to drive innovation

- more capacious view of authorship

Common Concerns

- significant time investment for authors and presses

- limited funding

- underdeveloped distribution channels for multimodal digital content

- **replication of structural inequities that limit diversity of participating authors and presses**

New Initiatives

Born-Digital Scholarly Publishing: **Resources and Roadmap (Brown University, July 2022)**
National Endowment for the Humanities Institute on Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities
https://library.brown.edu/neh-institute-born-digital-scholarly-publishing/

Digital Monograph Writers Workshop (Emory University)
http://fchi.emory.edu/digitalpublishing/tome/writers-workshop.html

Global Equity Grants and Book Proposal Development Grants (Princeton University Press)
https://press.princeton.edu/forms/global-equity-grant-application

FirstGen Program (University of California Press)
https://www.ucpress.edu/resources/firstgen-program

Grant Program for Diverse Voices (MIT Press)
https://mitpress.mit.edu/grant-program-diverse-voices

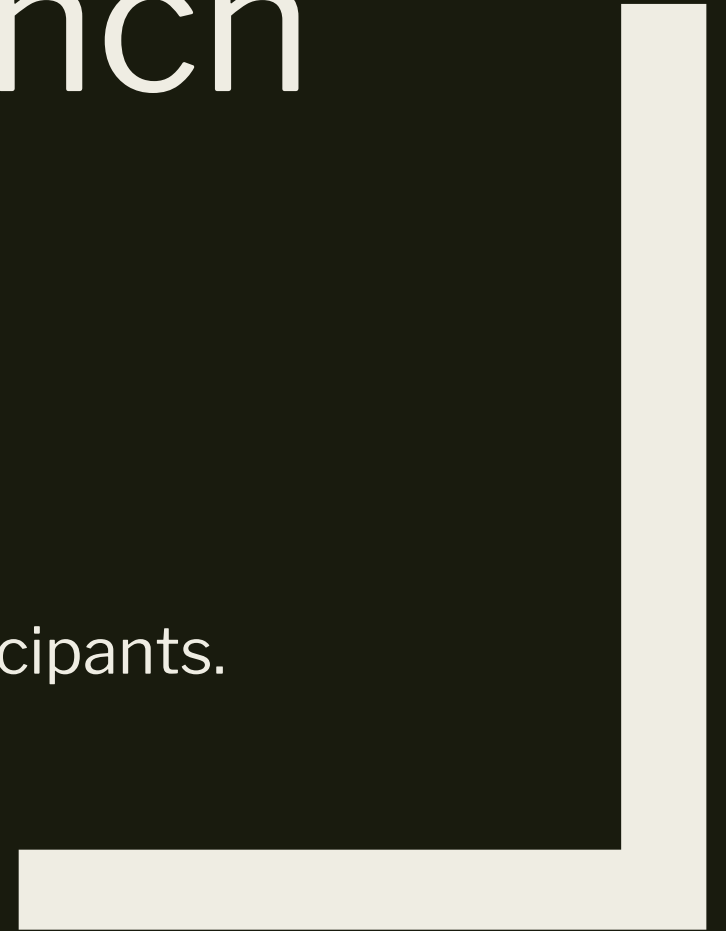# Your Turn!

Photo by Yoel J Gonzalez on Unsplash

Is your program publishing multimodal monographs?

- If yes, why did you take on the project(s)? How are they coming along?

- If no, are you planning/hoping to publish in this way? Why or why not?

White Paper Launch

JUNE 15, 2022
The paper is currently under review by all the participants.

THANK YOU!

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