

Digitization and Exogenesis

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(Session of three papers)

Within the field of genetic criticism, Raymonde Debray Genette coined the terms ‘endogenesis’ and ‘exogenesis’ to denote respectively the writing of drafts and the interaction with external source texts during the writing process. The proposed panel focuses on the ways in which exogenesis and its relationship with endogenesis can be given shape in a digital infrastructure. The case studies are the works, reading notes and personal libraries of James Joyce and Samuel Beckett.

‘Catalogue these books’: Digital Editions and the Digital Library (Ronan Crowley)

LSDI scanning represents the dominant economy of book digitisation. The proposed presentation looks to the intersections of these proliferating Big Text Data with digital editions of authors’ manuscripts to ask what are the points of contact and friction that obtain between digital libraries and heavily curated, deeply encoded editions of archival materials? The case study animating the paper focuses on the commonplace notebooks that James Joyce compiled in the preparation of *Ulysses* (1922). Leveraging the practice of sustained text reuse that they reveal, Ronan Crowley will explore the challenges and possibilities afforded by competing or complementary scales of digital materiality.

Joyce’s Library and the Extended Mind (Tom De Keyser)

A writer’s library gives away more information about its owner than we would expect. Not only does it provide a glimpse into the novelist’s “entire intellectual life at once” (Oram 2014, 2), the extended mind hypothesis suggests that a library and the information it captures is also situated within the extent of cognition (Van Hulle 2014, 151). In this respect, it has become a part of the mind that we are able to study and (if needed) reconstruct. This presentation suggests that creating a web framework for Joyce’s extant and virtual library opens possibilities for the study of the writing process as well as for our research of the human mind.

Samuel Beckett's Library and Digital Exogenesis (Wout Dillen, Vincent Neyt, and Dirk Van Hulle)

Because personal libraries are invaluable resources for research into a literary work's writing process, the *Beckett Digital Manuscript Project* has recently developed a new module: the Beckett Digital Library allows the user of our digital genetic edition to examine both his extant library and the reconstructed virtual library, and to assess the interpretative implications of the reading traces. The proposed paper shows how this module interacts with the other modules in our edition and suggests a model for the integration of digitized personal libraries in genetic editions.

References

- Oram, Richard W. (2014) 'Writers' Libraries: Historical Overview and Curatorial Considerations', in Richard W. Oram (ed.), *Collecting, Curating, and Researching Writers' Libraries: A Handbook*, Plymouth: Rowman & Littlefield, pp. 1-28.
- Van Hulle, Dirk. (2014) *Modern Manuscripts: The Extended Mind and Creative Undoing from Darwin to Beckett and Beyond*, London: Bloomsbury.