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Oceanic Exchanges

Tracing Global Information Networks in Historical Newspaper Repositories, 1840-1914

Oceanic Exchanges (OcEx) is funded through the Transatlantic Partnership for Social Sciences and Humanities 2016 Digging Into Data Challenge.

See: http://oceanicexchanges.org/
Project partners

- Argentina (MINCyT);
- Mexico (CONACYT);
- United States (NEH, NSF, IMLS);
- Brazil (FAPESP);
- Canada (SSHRC, NSERC, FRQ);
- Finland (AKA);
- France (ANR);
- Germany (DFG);
- Netherlands (NWO);
- Portugal (FCT);
- United Kingdom (AHRC, ESRC)
The Team of PIs

- **Northeastern University, US. Ryan Cordell (Consortium PI)**
- **University of Nebraska–Lincoln, US. Elizabeth Lorang**
- **North Carolina State University, US. Paul Fyfe**
- **University of Turku, Finland. Hannu Salmi**
- **University College London, UK. Julianne Nyhan**
- **Loughborough University, UK. Melodee Beals**
- **Utrecht University, Netherlands. Jaap Verheul**
- **National Autonomous University of Mexico. Isabel Galina Russell**
- **Universität Stuttgart. Steffen Koch**
## Data Providers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>URL</th>
<th>Num. of pp.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia’s Trove newspapers</td>
<td><a href="http://trove.nla.gov.au/">http://trove.nla.gov.au/</a></td>
<td>18.5 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British Newspapers Archive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/">http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/</a></td>
<td>14.5 million</td>
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<td>Chronicling America in the United States</td>
<td><a href="http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/">http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/</a></td>
<td>11 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europeana Newspapers</td>
<td><a href="http://europeana-newspapers.eu/">http://europeana-newspapers.eu/</a></td>
<td>20 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hemeroteca Nacional Digital de México</td>
<td><a href="http://www.hndm.unam.mx">http://www.hndm.unam.mx</a></td>
<td>9 million</td>
</tr>
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<td>National Library of Finland</td>
<td><a href="http://digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi/sanomalehti">http://digi.kansalliskirjasto.fi/sanomalehti</a></td>
<td>2 million</td>
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<td>National Library of the Netherlands</td>
<td><a href="http://www.delpher.nl/nl/kranten/">http://www.delpher.nl/nl/kranten/</a></td>
<td>11 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Library of Wales</td>
<td><a href="http://newspapers.library.wales/">http://newspapers.library.wales/</a></td>
<td>1.1 million</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand’s PapersPast</td>
<td><a href="http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/">http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/</a></td>
<td>4 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Objectives – flow of information
Precursors ...

**Nederland**


**Suomi**

- Travelling Notions of Culture: Itineraries of Bildung and Civilisation in Early Nineteenth-Century Europe (Academy of Finland, 2012–2016)

**United Kingdom**

- Scissors & Paste Database (LBORO)
- Scissors-and-Paste-O-Meter (LBORO)

**United States of America**

- Viral Texts: Mapping Networks of Reprinting in Nineteenth-Century Newspapers and Magazines (NEH, ACLS)
- Image Analysis for Archival Discovery (Aida) (NEH, 2014–2016)
- Nineteenth-Century Newspaper Analytics (NC State, Laboratory for Analytic Sciences, 2014–2016)
Europeana Newspapers is making historic newspaper pages searchable

EXPLORE
Historic Newspapers on www.europeana.eu
Main AIMS

1) To model and visualize textual migration and viral culture via case studies.

2) To create a networked, generic ontology to describe the different genres, forms, and textual elements that emerged during the nineteenth century.

3) To link digital repositories as a network, via computational tools connected across remotely hosted datasets.
Source: Oceanic Exchanges funding bid, 2016
Research Questions

1. Which stories spread between nations and how quickly?
2. Which texts were translated and resonated across languages?
3. How did textual copying (reprinting) operate internationally compared to conceptual copying (ideas spread)?
4. How did the migration of texts facilitate the circulation of knowledge, ideas, and concepts, and how were these ideas transformed as they moved from one Atlantic context to another?
5. How did geopolitical realities (e.g. economic integration, technology, migration, geopolitical power) influence the directionality of these transnational exchanges?
Ongoing case studies …

• Tracing the Traffic of Cholera in Nineteenth-Century Newspaper Repositories (Jana Keck, Moritz Knabben, Steffen Koch)

• The Origins of Fake News: Lajos Kossuth, Political Celebrity, and Dis/Information in the Nineteenth-Century Press (Paul Fyfe, Jana Keck, Mila Oiva, Jamie Parker)

• Attitudes towards female emigration from Great Britain to North America 1850- 1914 (Tessa Hauswedell and Julianne Nyhan)
Objectives include:

- A unified ontology of genres, forms, and textual elements
- to support transnational annotation of digitized newspapers and
- develop a shared vocabulary for newspaper research.
Challenges
Steps Involved

– Collect metadata fields with definitions from host countries.

– Build RDF/XML compatible metadata ontology

– Conducting interviews with institutions in order to retrace and understand the choices made in the digitization processes.

– Sharing the results of this review with libraries and others.
Blog posts by Dr Melodee Beals: https://oceanicexchanges.org/

The Times Digital Archive

Collection History

The Times Digital Archive was the first online digitized newspaper collection of British newspapers. This early adoption of digitization, building upon the ubiquity of Palmer’s index of the Times, ensured its prominence in historical and journalistic research, including its particular use by the House of Lords in researching past legal debates. As of 2013, it was the most searched digitized newspaper database among Cengage's news media collections.

Produced by then Thompson Gale publishers, the collection debuted in 2002. Its initial remit was to make available the entirety of the Times, including its previous incarnations, from 1785–1985. This initial material was digitized in a relatively short period of time (2002–3), allowing for a consistency of staff, equipment, method and product, both in terms of image and OCR quality. The content was released in several batches, the first being 1936–1946, growing monthly to include 1880–1985 by the end of 2002 and the whole 200 years by the close of 2003.

Since its acquisition by Cengage in 2007, Gale has continued to expand the collection, which now currently offers the complete run of the publication from 1785 to 2010.
Early results of interviews with private and public digital newspaper providers
To sum up ...

Not about building a totalizing research infrastructure or one encompassing archive.

Explore conditions through which researchers can work across collections.

Contributing to uncovering and making visible the assumptions, preferences, omissions and choices made in the digitization process by public institutions.

Working with libraries to improve interoperability.