Abstracts

ANA LUISA SÁNCHEZ LAWS
Digital Significance

Abstract Digitisation policies set the frameworks for the work that museums are able to conduct in the field. A comparative analysis of digitisation policy whitepapers from a selection of European countries as well as Australia can help shed light on digitisation areas that are well covered versus those that require more attention. One hypothesis that can explain any imbalances found may be that these imbalances stem from needing to meet prioritisation targets made in other government policies pertaining digitisation policy more broadly. A second hypothesis is that practical matters related to the physical process of digitisation itself may play a large role in hindering progress in some areas while easing it in others, despite the ambitions of policymakers. Sanchez Laws argues in this contribution that before assuming that an imbalance of available digital material in a given area is directly connected to lack of attention to certain groups or topics, it is important to understand the governmental conditions that underpin digitisation.

Keywords Digitisation, Europe, Museums, Practices, Policy

PAUL TURNBULL
Restoring Dignity
The Ethical and Technical Challenges of Creating
Digital Resources for the Repatriation
of Indigenous Australian Ancestral Remains

Abstract Securing the repatriation from Western scientific collections of the bodily remains of their ancestors is of vital importance to Australian First Nations and many other indigenous peoples worldwide. An extraordinary achievement by indigenous peoples, repatriation has been the single most important agent of change in their relationships with museums, universities, and other scientific institutions over the past 40 years. Since 2016, the Research, Reconcile, Renew Network (RRR) has been engaged in creating a digital resource assisting indigenous repatriations efforts with funding from the Australian Research Council and partnering universities. Besides assisting repatriation by providing access to a wealth of historical sources and the findings of research by RRR members, this digital resource is also designed to support research and scholarship exploring the history of scientific collecting and uses of the bodily remains of the ancestors of indigenous peoples. This

essay focuses on RRR's efforts to date to develop solutions to the ethical and technical challenges of creating this resource.

PAUL LONGLEY ARTHUR & ISABEL SMITH
Digital Representations of Slavery in Australia
Navigating Heritage, Identity and Power

Abstract The digitisation of exhibitions and collections has dramatically expanded access to and forms of cultural heritage, while also raising many questions around the power relations that underlie the production of this heritage. Whose heritage is being digitised, by whom, and for whom is it being recorded and represented? Such questions are especially pronounced in digital museum spaces facing issues of race and empire. Exhibitions on slavery in particular, which have proliferated across the globe since a 'slavery memory' boom in the late twentieth century and intersected with the digitisation of museums, underscore the tensions between contemporary politics, new forms of cultural heritage-making, and the colonial origins and frameworks of museums. This paper reflects upon the development and early conceptual phases of an online exhibition exploring legacies of slavery in Australia. Looking at the complex relationships and responsibilities between individuals, communities and institutions, this paper also explores evolving approaches to community engagement, audience contributions, and the question of the democratisation of content through digital and online storytelling. It considers the ways that selections in voice, medium, space and audience interact with ongoing and complex connections with British culture and heritage, to produce specific representations of slavery and forms of heritage in Australia. These differing forms intersect with and hold significant implications for Australian identities, contemporary politics, and lived realities.

FRIEDERIKE SCHMIDT
Retracing the Mobile Object
Digitising Biographies of Aboriginal Material Culture

Abstract The essay gives an overview about the benefits of applying a mixed method design in order to examine the appropriation practices of Aboriginal objects in Australia during the 19th and 20th century. The methodological combination of a quantitative data collection and a qualitative comparative perspective on

the acquiring process and appropriation of the objects offers a unique view on the entanglements of local cultural material and global collector networks. The examination of written sources such as letters, diaries, official government reports, exhibition catalogues, contemporary publications and the objects themselves can be supplemented with statistical analysis of an online collected dataset in order to inform each other to the extent that the analytic outcome is greater than the sum of the parts. Most notably, the quantitative approach allows insights about competing explanations and helps to reason case selection strategies for the qualitative perspective, whereas these case studies help to advance the quality of measurement procedures and model specifications used within the statistical analysis. The essay addresses questions such as the identification of quantitative patterns within the history of appropriating aboriginal material as well as individual circumstances which caused the appropriation of an object. Moreover, the essay advocates for the importance of publishing replication files in order to lead to more transparency of the intersections of particular sensitive historical events and their (re-) analysis.

Keywords Australia, Collectors, Indigeneity, Mixed Methods, Statistical Analysis

ROMANY REAGAN
Unlocking Heritage Stories
How the Use of Audio Walks as Creative Public
Engagement Expands Access to Site-Based
Heritage to a Diverse and Globalised Audience

Abstract For my practice-based PhD project Abney Rambles, I created four audio walks through Abney Park cemetery, which is located in the north London community of Stoke Newington in the United Kingdom. Each audio walk is positioned as an exploration of one layer of heritage within the cemetery. Since completing my PhD, I have expanded my research scope beyond the cemetery to encompass legends and lore from the British Isles, with several London-based research projects resulting in site-based audio walks and museum experiences. As of writing, there are 28 audio experiences in total available to be taken through various sites in London. The Abney Rambles series of audio walks were crafted to be experienced in situ; however, one unexpected result of hosting this ongoing project through an online media platform is that people have been enjoying these audio walks as simply audio experiences – from anywhere in the world. This expanded the visitor reach of these public engagement initiatives beyond what could normally be hoped for in physical visitor footfall. The heritage stories of my sites of research became accessible to a globalised audience in the form of 'digital visitors' – and the implications for this also expand to those potential visitors who have not engaged

with the space previously due to sight or mobility impairment. The aim of this chapter is to present an analysis of both the process and the outputs of crafting digital moments of interaction as part of a public engagement plan within heritage sites, hopefully offering a helpful resource for practitioners wishing to engage in digital heritage interactions.

Keywords Accessibility, Audio, Heritage Walks, London, Memory

KIMBERLY COULTER
Mediating Ecologies
Cultivating Diplomacy, Destabilising Paradigms

Abstract Ecology, Bruno Latour writes, is a "new way to handle all the objects of human and non-human collective life ... Nature is here considered as what assembles all entities into one whole." Media ecologies, it follows, may illuminate not only such relationships, but also the mediated nature of connections, representations, and engagement opportunities. The 2016 exhibition "Reset Modernity!" at the Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie (ZKM) in Karlsruhe, which Latour co-curated with Martin Guinard-Terrin, Donato Ricci, and Christophe Leclercq, offered one such opportunity for participants of the Heidelberg "Media Ecologies" workshop. Arguing that environmental destruction is often fueled by tenets of "progress," growth, and the nature/society dichotomy, the exhibition aims to disorient and gently "reset" visitors' paradigms of (ecological) observation and representation. In this essay, I recount the hope expressed by workshop participants that that digital and environmental humanities can destabilize paradigms, allay fears, cultivate diplomacy, and amplify serendipity. I reflect on this in light of our visit to the exhibition "Reset Modernity!".

Keywords Ecology, Environmental Humanities, Exhibitions, Latour, Reset Modernity!

POLLY LOHMANN
Digitising from Scratch
An Example from the Practise of a University Collection

Abstract University collections face different challenges than public museums: established as "study collections", they combine academic teaching, research and public outreach. In all these matters, they are provided with often very poor, or none, financial and human resources. Given these constraints, digitising such collections represents an enormous effort for individual responsibles. This essay pictures the current situation in the Heidelberg collection of Classical antiquities and

plastercasts as an example from the practise. It aims at problematising and questioning what "digitising" may mean and at showing the issues implicated with regard to specific kinds of objects and to selection and access of information.

Keywords Antiquities, Archaeology, Archives, Collections, Digitisation

AARON PATTEE
Graph Databases for the Organisation and Analysis of Digital Heritage

Abstract This paper presents an application of a labelled property graph database management system in order to model and analyse the political and economic network of two ministerialis families of the German Palatinate from the mid 12th century until the late-13th century. The Neo4j-based graph database provides an excellent platform for adding in information extracted from over 700 hundred charters, and dozens of historical texts, allowing one to assign unique properties to the different entities, and explore the interconnectivity between people, places, and events. This is made possible due to the database's emphasis upon modelling relationships and their properties. The opportunity to visualise real interactions between individuals and proceedings, as an interactive network with descriptive properties ascribed to each entity and relationship, brings transparency to the multitude of factors impacting particular historical events. In this capacity, labelled property graph databases prove themselves invaluable as explorative, learning, and analysis tools for understanding the complexities of medieval society. Furthermore, such a database can be applied to a multitude of disciplines or case studies, for which this paper can provide a procedure for developing other projects.

Keywords Archives, Data Management, Digital Humanities, History, Modelling

VICTORIA HERCHE
Mediating Traumatic Memory
The Potential of Interactive Digital Migrant Fictions

Abstract Mediated representations and news coverage of boat migration play a vital role in constructing discourses of the situation of refugees and asylum seekers at large, often in generalising ways. Whether as an image of potential danger and hostile threat or as the image of vulnerability, danger, and crisis, the iconic refugee boat evokes ambivalent and emotionally charged associations with notions of transoceanic migration. This chapter discusses the potential in the recontextualisation of individual migrant memories – by processes of fictionalisation and digitisation – to

provide a transcultural perspective on memory and to contribute to the construction of collective memory and public awareness. By referring to two interactive web-based graphic stories, adaptations of Khaled Hosseini's *Sea Prayer* (2018) and Nam Le's *The Boat* (2009), this chapter discusses the choice of authors and media artists to accompany or adapt fictional migrant stories into interactive and intermedial forms. Hereby I argue that the interactive digital format provides particularly productive ways to represent the absences and gaps inherent to traumatic migrant memories and allows readers/viewers to be active participants in the re-conceptualisation of the representation of boat migration in public discourse and narrative.

Keywords Graphic Novels, Interaction, Memory, Migration, Storytelling

MARIJKE VAN FAASSEN & RIK HOEKSTRA
Storytelling, Identity, and Digitising Heritage

Abstract Heritage is recollections, and recollections are the building blocks for storytelling. A story is told from the perspective of a person, a group of persons or of governments. But all collections, both private and public, have been created through processes of selection, conscious or unconscious, that are often hidden. Even if we connect all available heritage materials, they contain blind spots, and some perspectives will be over-exposed while other remain under-represented. We explore the pitfalls of large-scale digitisation, the perspectives of the institutional and the individual, of governments and marginalised groups.

Keywords Archives, Identity, Memory, Migration, Netherlands

JANA KECK
**How Meaningful are Digital Humanities Projects
When it Comes to Training Early-Career Scholars
in Digital Literacy?**

Abstract In recent years, there has been a growing trend towards international collaborations in Digital Humanities projects, exemplified by initiatives like "Oceanic Exchanges: Tracing Global Information Networks in Historical Newspaper Repositories, 1840–1914" (OcEx). This project united scholars in computational periodicals research from various countries, including the US, Mexico, Germany, the Netherlands, Finland, and the UK, with the aim of examining patterns of information dissemination across national and linguistic boundaries. This article raises a crucial question: how beneficial are these collaborative efforts for equipping early-career scholars with essential digital literacy skills? Within this context, the article emphasises the

significance of digital literacy in the realm of historical research and underscores the pivotal role played by "Oceanic Exchanges" in offering international and inter-disciplinary training opportunities. Jana Keck shares her own experiences and concrete project outcomes, placing particular emphasis on the acquisition of digital literacy competencies, a deep understanding of digitisation ethics, and the invaluable connections formed through interdisciplinary networking. Furthermore, the article advocates for a reevaluation of existing evaluation systems, pushing for the recognition of diverse publication formats and the promotion of interdisciplinary scholarship. These changes are seen as essential to adequately prepare scholars for the multifaceted career paths that await them in the digital age.