

LASA 2018 Workshop: Latin American Collections, Digitization and Access Roundtable

Sponsored by the Section on Libraries, Archives and Research (formerly the Section on Scholarly Communication and Research)

Thursday, May 24, 5:45 to 7:15pm | <http://tinyurl.com/y7z3mkgh>

* Brook Danielle Lillehaugen, Assistant Professor of Linguistics, Haverford College
Mike Zarafonetis, Coordinator of Digital Scholarship and Research Services, Haverford College

Brook Lillehaugen: "Digital Scholarship and Collaboration with Stake-holding Communities: a linguist's perspective"

Michael Zarafonetis: "Digital Scholarship and Collaboration with Stake-holding Communities: a digital scholarship librarian's perspective"

Ticha: a digital text explorer for Colonial Zapotec | <https://ticha.haverford.edu/>

Funding source and timeframe

American Council of Learned Societies; Lillehaugen 2015-2016 Fellowship

- American Philosophical Society; Lillehaugen 2015 Franklin Research Grant
- Center for Peace and Global Citizenship at Haverford College
- Haverford College
- Hurford Center for the Arts and Humanities at Haverford College
- Magill Library at Haverford College
- National Endowment for the Humanities*
 - Lillehaugen 2014 NEH Summer Stipend
 - Lillehaugen 2015-2016 NEH Fellowship for College Teachers and Independent Scholars
- Tri-Co Digital Humanities

Collection/project description

Ticha is an online, digital explorer for a corpus of Colonial Zapotec texts. (The name *ticha* comes from the Colonial Valley Zapotec word for 'word', which can also mean 'language' and 'text'.) Zapotec languages are indigenous to Mexico. There is a large corpus of alphabetic texts written in Zapotec languages, the earliest dated to 1565 (Oudijk 2008:230). Reading and interpreting these colonial documents can be extremely difficult because of the challenges of early Zapotec orthography, vocabulary, grammar, and printing conventions, yet the documents contain rich linguistic, historical, and anthropological information. Ticha allows users to access and explore many interlinked layers of these texts, including images of the original documents, transcriptions, translations into English and modern Spanish, linguistic analysis (including morphological interlinearization), and commentary. Ticha is innovative in bringing together data analyzed in FLEx (Fieldworks Language Explorer, fieldworks.sil.org) a system for lexical and grammatical analysis, with current TEI standards (Text Encoding Initiative, tei-c.org) for paleographic and translational representations of texts. Ticha seeks to make this corpus of Colonial Zapotec texts accessible to scholars in diverse fields (including linguistics, anthropology, and history), Zapotec community members, and the general public.

* María Victoria Fernández, Assistant Curator for Digital Outreach, John Carter Brown Library, Brown University

“Breakdowns in Machine Reading: Confronting the Limits of OCR-ing Multilingual, Indigenous Language Texts from Sixteenth-Century Mexico”

Reading the First Books: Multilingual, Early-Modern OCR for Primeros Libros | <https://sites.utexas.edu/firstbooks/>

Funding source and timeframe
NEH Digital Humanities Implementation Grant
Project dates: August 2015 – December 2017

Collection/project description

Reading the First Books: Multilingual, Early-Modern OCR for Primeros Libros was a two-year, multi-university effort to develop tools for the automatic transcription of early modern printed books. The focus of the project was the Primeros Libros de las Américas collection, which seeks to produce digital facsimiles of all books printed before 1601 in the Americas. A collaboration between the LLILAS Benson Latin American Studies and Collections at UT Austin and the Early Modern OCR Project at Texas A&M University, Reading the First Books sought to develop corpora and advanced tools for the transcription of these historical documents, including materials specifically tailored for the transcription of indigenous-language texts. It also set out to produce OCR transcriptions of the books in the Primeros Libros collection. The project was funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Implementation Grant.

The Reading the First Books project was completed in December 2017.

* Jennifer Osorio, Librarian for Latin American, Iberian and Ethnic Studies; Interim Head, International Studies, UCLA

“Conservation and Cafecitos: Digitization partnerships in Cuba”

International Digital Ephemera Project (IDEP) | <http://idep.library.ucla.edu/>

Funding source and timeframe
Funding from Arcadia Foundation (2012-2017) and institutional funding (ongoing)

Collection/project description

IDEP is a multi-year program to identify, preserve and provide broad public access to endangered materials around the world through digitization using a post-custodial model, in partnership with cultural institutions in the Middle East, Africa and the Caribbean. In this presentation, I will discuss our work with the Biblioteca Nacional de Cuba José Martí, the Instituto de Historia and the Cinemateca de Cuba, as well as future plans.

* T-Kay Sangwand, Librarian for Digital Collection Development, UCLA Digital Library Program

“Untold Diasporas: A Community Based Oral History Project with Chinese Cuban Elders”

International Digital Ephemera Project (IDEP) | <http://idep.library.ucla.edu/cuba>

Funding source and timeframe

IDEP initially funded by the Arcadia Foundation. IDEP: Cuba began in 2015 and is ongoing. The Chinese Cuban Elders Oral History Project took place between August 2017-January 2018.

Collection/project description

The Chinese Cuban Elders Oral History Project is a collaboration between the UCLA Library and the Casa de Artes y Tradiciones Chinas in Havana, Cuba to document Chinese Cuban experiences for future generations. The interviews were conducted in Spanish by UCLA doctoral candidate Edwin Porras while he was conducting dissertation fieldwork on Chinese influences in Cuban music. These interviews will be available at the Casa de Artes y Tradiciones Chinas as well as UCLA Library; digital copies have also been returned to the elders.

* Angelina Godoy, Director, Center for Human Rights, University of Washington (USA)

"Access to Information as a Human Right: Digital Documentation of the conflict in El Salvador"

Unfinished Sentences | <https://unfinishedsentences.org>

Funding source and timeframe

Ongoing project(s) funded primarily by grants

Collection/project description

For the past 5 years, working in partnership with grassroots organizations, our Center has built a collection of materials relating to human rights concerns during the armed conflict in El Salvador. These include a digital archive of survivor testimony (<https://unfinishedsentences.org/archive/index.php>) based on videos of those who lived through it in one particular community, and a collection of declassified US government documents (<https://unfinishedsentences.org/reports/uw-libraries-el-salvador-foia-collection/>) which we've compiled through our own research. I am not an archivist or librarian, but as our Center has delved into this area of work I've become more interested in learning from librarians and archivists, which is why I am excited to participate in this panel.

* Maria José Afanador-Llach, Assistant professor of digital humanities, Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia)

"Digitization and Collaborative cataloguing: The Experience of the Fundación Histórica Neogranadina in Colombian Archives"

Fundación Histórica Neogranadina | www.neogranadina.org

Funding source and timeframe

Started in 2015 and is ongoing. Funding: small grants, contracts with public institutions, and donations

Collection/project description

Since 2015, Neogranadina, a non-profit foundation established in Colombia, has been digitizing colonial manuscripts and early modern printed books across private non-state funded archives. Using an open-source scanner design, which we have adapted especially for the scanning of historical documents, we are able to build machines that take very high quality images. We also lead a collaborative project for cataloguing the colonial Notarial repository of the city of Tunja which lacks a catalogue. Fostering open access, collaboration, experimentation, and data-based research, we conceive of the digitization process as part of a larger digital humanities' research agenda to explore the ways of designing databases that allow for searchability, data visualization, text analysis and, novel methodologies for historical interpretation.

* Dr. Christoph Müller, Director of the Digital Library, Vice-Director of the Library, Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut Stiftung Preußischer Kulturbesitz (Ibero-American Institute, Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation, Berlin, Germany)

“Digital transformation and its impact on innovation in libraries”

Digital Collections of the Ibero-American Institute | <http://digital.iai.spk-berlin.de/>
Ibero-American Institute | <http://www.iai.spk-berlin.de/en/home.html>

Funding source and timeframe

Funding: Institution, Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Bundesbeauftragte für Kultur und Medien, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung. Timeframe: several finished and ongoing projects

Collection/project description

Digitization and presentation of specialized collections from and about Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal

The Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut (IAI, Ibero-American Institute) is an interdisciplinary center for academic and cultural exchange between Germany and Latin America, the Caribbean, Spain and Portugal. It is home to the largest specialist library in Europe for the Ibero-American region. It is also a place of knowledge production, exchange and cultural translation. Combining an information center, a research center and a cultural center, the IAI is both a platform for cooperation and a catalyst for intercultural and transcultural dialog. The IAI was founded in 1930 and is today located in the Berlin Kulturforum complex on Potsdamer Strasse. It has been part of the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz (Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation) since 1962.