Beyond the Facsimile: Early English Books Online (EEBO) and the Text Creation Partnership

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Enriching Scholarship

May 7, 2012
Goals

• Understand the relationship between Early English Books Online and Text Creation Partnership
• Develop ability to “read” an interface: to think about, ask questions of, and make sense of what is being revealed or hidden by websites for digitized resources
• Understand what the Text Creation Partnership produces and some of the ways it can be used—as well as what it cannot do
• Share ideas for using these resources in research and teaching
Agenda

• Introductions (5 min)
• Background: What is the Text Creation Partnership? What is its relationship to EEBO? (10 min)
• Walk through/demo different ways to search the texts (25 min)
  • ProQuest’s EEBO
  • UM’s EEBO-TCP
  • Differences, similarities, preferences?
• Behind the scenes (25 min):
  • What does the TCP really produce?
  • What are the challenges and goals of this work? What purpose does it serve?
  • document analysis exercise
• Ideas/examples for teaching and research (20 min)
• Critical thinking: gaps and limitations of these resources (10 min)
• Questions/discussion (10 min)
• Evaluation (5 min)
Introductions

Who am I?
Rebecca Welzenbach, Text Creation Partnership Project Outreach Librarian

Who are you?

• Name
• Affiliation
• Do you already use EEBO or TCP? In what capacity?
• Any specific questions, concerns, or things you hope will be covered today?
Background: EEBO

• Contains more than 125,000 titles listed in Pollard & Redgrave’s Short-Title Catalogue (1475-1640) and Wing’s Short-Title Catalogue (1641-1700) and their revised editions, as well as the Thomason Tracts (1640-1661) and the Early English Books Tract Supplement

• Commercial product developed by ProQuest

• Purchased or licensed by libraries

• Grew out of Early English Books microfilm series

• Consists of scanned microfilm and (now) direct scans from books

• EEBO alone lets you search the MARC catalog records for each book and view the pages of the book. It does not provide full-text search capabilities

• Page images + searchable metadata

For more information: http://eebo.chadwyck.com.proxy.lib.umich.edu/about/about.htm

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Background: EEBO-TCP

• More than 40,000 texts done so far. Goal is to complete ~70,000, or one edition of each unique work in the EEBO catalog

• Each page is keyed by hand (OCR doesn’t work; double/triple-keying) and mark-up added

• Product is a large set of searchable encoded text files that may be matched up with page images in EEBO for search and display, or put to other uses entirely

• Not-for-profit, library-based consortial project

• Libraries pay to support this work; gain immediate access to the output

• Text files belong to partner library institutions and will ultimately be made freely available to everyone

• Model has been replicated with ECCO- and Evans-TCP

For more information: http://textcreationpartnership.org
Demo: ProQuest’s EEBO Interface


Now available – EEBO Interactions: A social network for Early English Books Online. (sign in, register as a new Interactions user, or find out more)

The EEBO Introductions Series, providing concise and informative commentaries on some of the less frequently discussed texts in EEBO

http://eebo.chadwyck.com.proxy.lib.umich.edu/

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Demo: ProQuest’s EEBO Interface

http://eebo.chadwyck.com.proxy.lib.umich.edu/search

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Demo: ProQuest’s EEBO Interface

Search using: Variant spellings
(e.g. jealousy finds jealousy, jealousy etc.)

Variant forms
(e.g. arrest finds arresting, arrested etc.)

How does the Variant Spellings feature work?

The Variant spellings box appears on the Basic Search, Advanced Search and Periodicals Search screens. It is checked by default.

If you type a search term in the Keyword(s) box and the Variant spellings box is checked when you submit your search, you will automatically retrieve all instances of your search term and its early modern variant forms in EEBO. For example, if the box for Variant spellings is checked and you type the word murder in the Keyword(s) field, when you submit your search you will retrieve all occurrences of the word murder and its early modern variants murther, murre, murdr and murther.

This will also work if you check the box and type search terms in other fields like Title keyword(s) and Imprint.

If you type a phrase in the Keyword(s) search field (for example Keyword(s): "so foul and fair a day") and the Variant spellings box is checked when you submit your search, your results will include instances of the phrase where the spelling varies (such as so foule and faire a day). Similarly, if you type a series of terms connected by Boolean or proximity operators in this field (for example jealous and green-eyed), your search will include all available spelling and typographic variants of each term (such as jealous, green-eyed and green eyd).

When typing a search expression that includes Truncation and wildcard operators (e.g. Keyword(s): je?Io?*s*), you should uncheck the Variant spellings and Variant forms boxes.
Demo: ProQuest’s EEBO Interface


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Catalog record only

Catalog record, images, illustrations, full text from TCP

Catalog record, images, illustrations
TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE MY SINGULAR GOOD LORD, THE LORD CHARLES HOWARD, Earl of Nottingham, Baron of Effingham, Knight of the noble Order of the Garter, Lord High Admiral of England, Ireland, and Wales, &c. one of her Maisties most honourable prieu Counsell.

Right Honourable and my very good Lord, after I had long since published in Print many Narrations and Discoveries of Stranglers in divers languages, as well at home in England, as in the cite of Paris, during my five yeares abode in France, with the same Knight Sir Edward Stafford your brother in law, her Maisties most prudent and careful Ambassador in the French King; and had zealously stood forth in the sweet study of the historie of Captains and Voyagers, I began at first to concisse, that with great success, some thing might be gathered which might commend our nation for their high courage and singular ability in the Search and Discoveries of the most unknowned quarters of the world. Hence, seeing no man to stop forth to undertake the recording of so many memorable actions, and many man to follow his private affairs; the atent of your Grace by the countey disordered all difficulties, and as it were with a sharp good provoked me and thrust me forward into this most troublesome and painful action. And after great charges and infinite cares, after many hardships, toils, and travaile, and warming out of my weake body, at length I have collected these several Volumes of the English Navigation, Travellours, and Discoveries, to strange, remote, and far distant countreys. Which works of min I have not included within the compass of things only done in these latter days, so through life nor nothing worthie of memory has been performed in so many years, but recording well by the space of many hundred yeares, have brought to light many very rare and worthy monuments, which long lieuen miserably scattered in mustie corners, & restlesly hidden in mistie darkness, and were very like for the greatest part to have been burned in perpetual oblivion. The first Volume of these works I have thus for the present brought to light, reserving the other two until the next spring, when by Gods grace they shall come to the Prasse. In the mean season bethinking my selfe of some manfull and bountifull Patron, I called to mind your Honourable Lordship, who both in regard of my particular obligation, and also in regard of this subiect and matter, might bestily undertake the Patronage thereof. For first I remembered how much I was bound, and how deeply indebted for my younger brother Edmund Hackluyt, to whom for the space of foure whole yeares your Lordship committed the government and instruction of that honorable your wyfe, my sonne & here apparent, the Lord Williame

View document image (3) 

Howard, of whose high spirit and wonderful boldness, I have many a time hear him boasted unto me. Secondly, the bounden duty which I owe to your most dear sister the lady Stafford, my singular good lady & honourable mistress, adumbrated me to be mindful of the renowned familiy of the Howard.

Thirdly, when I found in the first Patent granted by Queen Marie to the Moselique company, that my lesse your father being then lord High Admiral of England, was one of the first navigators and furnesers, with his purtie and conuenience, of the strange and wonderful Discoverie of Russia, the chiefest centers of this present Volume; then I reverenced the same saying of sweet Iapinyn. That soone ought not only to be inchenters of their fathers substance, but also of their commendeable vertues and honours. But what speake I of your ancestors heroes (which to say the truthe, are very great, and such as our Chronicles have notably brazed) when as your owne Heroicall actions from time to time have shewed themselves so admirable, as no antiquitie hath afforded greater, and the future times will not in haste (I think) performe the like. To come to some particulars, when the Emperours sister, the spouse of Spenke, with a Fleece of 150. soilles, stoutly and proudly passe the narrow Seas, your Lordship accompanied with ten ships anly of her Maisties Nathalie Roan, enuironed their Fleete in most strange and warlike sort, enforced them to sail, and to violate their bounds for the Queene of England, and made them perfectly to understand that elke speache of the prince of Portos.

Hic est imperium belologi saeculum(que) tridentem, & tibi siste datum.


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Demo: University of Michigan’s EEBO-TCP Interface

Basic Search
Boolean Search
Proximity Search
Bibliographic Search
Word Index (Phase I)
Word Index (Phase II)
Browse (Phase I)
Browse (Phase II)

About EEBO-TCP
Demo EEBO-TCP
comments to:
UMDL Help
Demo: University of Michigan’s EEBO-TCP Interface

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Which meets your needs? Try it...

In both interfaces...

• Try a keyword/full text search for “cookery”
• Try searching within verse for “love”

To make things more interesting, add these additional variables:

• Try it with and without spelling/form variants allowed in EEBO
• Try changing the limits in EEBO (all items, full text only, etc.)

What do you find?

• Questions?
• Frustrations?
• Inconsistencies?
• Do you find you have a clear preference for one over the other?
Different search results

A book of cookery, very necessary for all such as delight therein. / Gathered by J.W. ; Printed at London by Edward Alleyn, 1587.

Date: 1587
Bib name / number: STC (2nd ed.) / 24895
Physical description: 20 leaves. 24 cm.
Copy from: New York Public Library (New York, N.Y.)

A book of cookery: Very necessary for all such as delight therein. Gathered by A.W. ; At London. Printed by Edward Alleyn, 1591.

Date: 1591
Bib name / number: STC (2nd ed.) / 24987
Physical description: 17 leaves. 25 cm.
Copy from: Bibliothek der University of Oxford.

West Barbary, or, A short narrative of the revolutions of the kingdoms of Fez and Morocco with an account of the present customs, state of the slaves, and dominion / by Lancelot Addison ... (Dundee, [copyist?]) : Printed at the Theatre in Oxford, and are to be sold by John W有點, 1671.

Date: 1671
Bib name / number: Wing / A302
Physical description: 24 leaves. 7 cm.
Copy from: Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery

West Barbary, or, A short narrative of the revolutions of the kingdoms of Fez and Morocco. (London, 1700).

...large, by a way of Cookery peculiar to the Moors. ...
Which one do I use?

**ProQuest’s EEBO Interface**
- search more than 120,000 books, whether or not they have full text
- Use fuzzy spelling or variant searching
- Easily download/print sections of a work as a PDF

**University of Michigan’s TCP Interface**
- Only search works with keyed full text
- Get most up-to-date batch of texts
- Some more precise searching options (e.g. proximity, sorting by frequency)

**Both can**: move between text and image view, display table of contents, restrict search to certain areas or kinds of text (e.g. letters, drama, verse, etc.)

**Big picture**: many of the same capabilities, some differences. Use what you’re comfortable with and what meets your needs. If something seems missing from one, try the other. Be aware that both—and any interface—will cause things to look and behave slightly differently, even with the same data underneath
What’s going on behind the scenes?

Two key components:

• Accurately transcribed text
• Structural markup: XML (more precisely, SGML)

That is: tags that explicitly describe the structure of a document, allowing a computer to “read” and understand the relationship of parts of the text to one another, just as we have learned to do when looking at a page.
SGML Markup

< BODY >
< DIV TYPE="book" >
< P REF="1" >
< HEAD >THE EPISODE OF PAUL TO PHILEMON.< /HEAD >
< ARGUMENT >
< P >1 Paul handling e base and small matter, yet according to his manner mouthed aloft unto God. 2 Sending again to Philemon his vagabond and theeish servant, he entreated pardon for him, and very gravedly preacheth of Christian equity.< /ARGUMENT >
< P N="1" > Paul a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and
< HB >our< HB > brother Timotheus, vnto Philemon our deare friend, and fellow helper.< /P >
< P N="2" > 2 And to
< HB >our< HB > deare
< HB >inter< HB > friend, Archippus our fellow solider, and to the Church that is in thine house:< /P >
< P N="3" > 3 Grace be< HB > with you, and peace from God our Father, and
< HB >from< HB > the Lord Jesus Christ.< /P >
< P N="4" > 4 NOTE PLACE="marg1" N="1">1.< HB >Then,< HB > 1 2.< HB >the,< HB > 1 3.< NOTE >give thanks to my God, making mention alwayes of thee in my prayers,< /NOTE >
< P N="5" > 5 (When I heart of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all Saints.)< /P >
< P N="6" > 6 That the
< NOTE PLACE="marg2" N="a">By fellowship of faith, he meaneth those duties of charity which are bestowed upon the Saints, and those of an affectual faith;< /NOTE >fellowship of thy faith may be made effectual, and that whatsoever good thing is in you through Christ Jesus, may bee;
< NOTE PLACE="marg2" N="b">That by this means all men may perceive how rich you are in Christ, as wise, in faith, charity, and all bountifulness.< /NOTE >known.< /NOTE >
< P N="7" > 7 For wee hace great joy and consolation in thy love, because by thee, brother, the Saints
< NOTE PLACE="marg2" N="c">Because they didst so daintily and cheerfully refresh the Saints, that they conceived an ardent and avaricious joy: for by this word (Bowels) is meant not only the inward feeling of wants and miseries that enue one of another state, but also that joy and comfort which entred into the very bowels, as though the heart were refreshed and comforted.< /NOTE >bowels are comforted.< /NOTE >
< P N="8" > 8 Wherefore, though I be very bold in Christ to commend thee, that which is convenient.< /P >
< P N="9" > 9 NOTE PLACE="marg" N="1">An example of a Christian exercise and comination for another man.< /NOTE >
< HB >Yet< HB > for love sake, I put thee to mind, though I be as I am, even Paul aged, and even now a prisoner for Jesus Christ.< /P >
< P N="10" > 10 I beseech thee for my sake
< NOTE PLACE="marg1" N="a">For bowels of charity, because of thine charity, and also because of thine affection to me.< /NOTE >
< HB >Coloss.< HB > 4.9.< NOTE >Onasimus, whom I have begotten in my bands,< /NOTE >
< P N="11" > 11 Which in times past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable both to thee and< NOTE >to me.< /NOTE >
< P N="12" > 12 Whom I have sent again, thou therefore receive him, that is mine owne
< NOTE PLACE="marg" N="Q">As mine owne sonne, and as if I had begotten him of mine owne body.< /NOTE >bowels.< /P >
< P N="13" > 13 Whom I would have received with me, that in thine stead he might have ministred unto me in the bonds of the Gospel.< /P >
Document analysis exercise

• Pick a printout or several
• Work in small groups
• Identify elements of the document’s structure: what can you tell by looking at the page that a computer wouldn’t know? What information would you want to have pulled out?
• Do you agree about what is important to tag, and how to categorize it?
What is the point of all of this?

• An interface/program can only work with what information you give it in the first place

• Our goal is to produce a lot of high-quality data that can more or less be generally agreed upon. This gives a search engine something useful to grab onto, but also leaves room for further enhancements

• We turn wheat into flour, and hope you’ll make bread
Examples of new projects built on TCP data

• Specialized scholarly editions: 
  The Holinshed Project
• Alternative search/display interfaces: 
  PhiloLogic @NU
• Additional analysis: Monk Workbench
• Thematic groupings/websites: 
  Witches in Early Modern England
• For readable, scholarly comments on text analysis: Ted Underwood’s blog
EEBO-TCP in the classroom

• Sample assignments: http://www.lib.umich.edu/tcp/eebo/scholarship.html

• 2012 Spring Term course on history of taste: mining EEBO- and ECCO-TCP for recipes

• Document analysis?
Critical Thinking: Reading the Database

What problems, gaps, shortcomings do you see? (in the interfaces we looked at or in the data underneath)

What would you/do you warn your students about when encouraging them to use EEBO or TCP?
Further questions/discussion

• Please get in touch if we can be of help with your research, or with an assignment in your classroom (happy to give targeted overviews/presentations)
• Thanks and good luck!
• Please fill out the evaluation: http://www.umich.edu/~teachtec/es.html