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
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

Send your suggestions, comments or queries to our Webmaster.

End Session | Site map | Accessibility

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Privacy policy

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

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, mured, murther 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 faire 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?lo?s*), you should uncheck the Variant spellings and Variant forms boxes.
Demo: ProQuest’s EEBO Interface


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Demo: ProQuest’s EEBO Interface

Catalog record only

Catalog record, images, illustrations, full text from TCP

Catalog record, images, illustrations

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Demo: ProQuest’s EEBO Interface

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 MAESTIES MOST HONORABLE PRIVIE COUNSEL.

Right Honourable and my very good Lord, after I had long since published in Print many Navigations and Discoveries of Strange Places in divers languages, as well as here in London, as in the City of Paris, during my last voyage abode in France, with the very wise Knight Sir Edward Stafford, your brother in law, her Maiesties most prudent and careful Ambassador, being at first at the beginning of my long experience, then thought it might and ought to be published, since it was a new and very rare and worthy monuments, and I have, by the grace of God, been so fortunate as to have been in possession of the same, and the same have been very convenient for the greater part to be published in divers languages. The first volume of this work I have thought fit to bring to light, reserving the other two until the next Spring, when by the grace of God they shall come to the Press. In the mean season meditating my safety of some mean flout and banditship, I chose to publish them to be of service to them being many noble actions, but yet some few that might be of some service to the subject and state, might usefully challenge the pithiest part of the particular place. For first I considered how much I was bound, and have deeply esteemed for my young friend Edmund Hackett, to whom for the space of four whole years your Lordship hath employed and instructed of that honorable young nobleman, your sonne and here absent, the Lord William.

View document image (2)

Howard, of whose high spirit and wonderful turn of ease full many a time hath he boasted unto me, especially the bounteous gift which I owe to your most deare sister the Lady Stafford, my singular good lady and honorable mistress, administered me to be mindful of the renowned family of the Howards. Thirdly, when I found in the first Patent granted by Queen Marie to the Muscovite company, that my Lord your father being then lord high Admiral of England, was one of the first traders and merchandises, with his purse and curneulence, of the strange and wonderful Discoveries of Russia, the chief centers of this present Volume, then I remembred the sage saying of sweet Isocrates. That sciences ought not only to be inquirers of their fathers substance, but also of their commendable virtues and honours. But what speake I of your ancestors honors (which to say the truth,) are very great, and such as our Chronicles have notably blessed; when as your own Heroicall actions from time to time have shewed themselves so admirable, as no antiquity hath afforded greater, and the future times will not in haste (I think,) performe the like. To come to some particulars, when the Emperors sister, the spouse of Spaine, with a Fleece of an 130. sols, stoutly and proudly passed the narrow Seas, your Lordship accompanied with ten ships every of her Maiesties Nauie Roiain, enroched their Fleece in most strange and warlike sort, enforced them to sail against, and to wall their forces for the Queene of England, and made them perfectly to understand that able speach of the prince of Poets;


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Demo: University of Michigan’s EEBO-TCP Interface

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THE FIRST VOLUME OF THE principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques, and Discoveries of the English nation, made to the North and Northeast quarters of the World, with the directions, letters, priludges, discourses, and observations incident to the same.

Certeine testimonies concerning K. Arthur and his conquests of the North regions, taken out of the historie of the Kings of Britaine, written by Gaufridus Monumetensis, and newly printed at Heidelberg, Anno 1587.

Lib. 9, cap. 10.

ANno Christi, 517. Arthurus, secundo regni sui anno, subiugatis totius Hyberniae partibus, classem suam diuexit in Islandiam, quamque debellato populo subiugavit. Exin diuigitato per caeteras insulas rumore, quod e nullo Provinciis resistere poterat. Doldanus rex Godlandiae, & Gunfacios rex Orkudum, viro venerunt, promiscoque vertigii subjiciendum feciunt. Emensa deinde hyeme, reuerens est in Britanniam, attacque regni in firmam pacem renouans, moxam duodecim annis ibidem fecit.

The same in English.

IN the yere of Christ, 517. king Arthur in the second yeere of his reign, having subdued all parts of Ireland, sailed with his fleet into Island, and brought it and the people thereof under his subjection. The rumour afterwards being spread thorowout all the other Islands, that no countrey was able to withstand him, Doldanus the king of Godland, and Gunfacios the king of Orkey, came voluntarily vnto him, and yeelded him their obedience, promising to pay him tribute. The Winter being spent, he returned into Britaine, and establishing his kindgome in perfect peace, he continued there for the space of twelve yeares.

Lib. 9 cap. 12.

Missis deinde in diversa regna Legatis, insuantur tam ex Galliis, quam ex collatetabilibus Insulis Oceani, qui ad curiam venire debent. &c. Et paulo post: Ex collatetabilibus autem Insulis, Guillaumurius rex Hyberniae, Malusius rex Islandiae, Doldanus rex Godlandiae, Gunnasius rex Or championship, Lot rex Noruegae, Aschilius rex Danorum.

The same in English.
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
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

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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>
<svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" viewBox="0 0 500 500">
<rect width="500" height="500" fill="#fff"/>
<text x="250" y="250" font-size="72" font-family="sans-serif">SGML Markup</text>
</svg>
</BODY>
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?

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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